



Yang ends visit

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light to moderate southeasterly wind and rain. Chance for rain.

Temp of sea: Moderate

High water: 10.00 pm, 10.30 pm

Low water: 6.19 am, 5.16 pm

Sunrise: 6.41 am

Sunset: 4.57 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18° 66° F

Ahmad: 18° 64° F

Faiala: 17° 63° F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 10° 40° F

Ahmad: 13° 55° F

Faiala: 12° 54° F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 18° 6° F

Ahmad: 17° 63° F

Faiala: 17° 63° F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 87 per cent

Ahmad: 85 per cent

Faiala: 78 per cent

RIYADH, Dec. 26, (Kuna): Saudi Arabia today denied allegations made by Iran concerning the arrest of a number of Arab nationals and their deportation.

In a statement to Saudi Press agency (SPA), a Saudi official denied the statement by Iran concerning the arrest of 40 Egyptians then deporting them to Egypt. It also denied the arrest of an Egyptian religious leader.

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(Continued on Page 13)

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dies trying to smoke: An emphysema victim died after igniting a fire after he tried to light a cigarette while taking oxygen through his nose, firefighters said.

Clare Shaw, 59, of Toledo, had been warned not to smoke in bed in his private room at the Monclova Care Centre, fire investigators said. Early Monday's fire was limited to Shaw's bed area, but 15 other residents were moved as a precaution to the dining area for a couple of hours, authorities said. (AP)

Retirement home fire: Firefighters found a 16th body Monday after a fire swept through a high-rise retirement home, and 11 residents who had been listed as missing were all believed to be safe.

"All those have been confirmed. They have been found," fire chief Doug Buckles said at a news conference.

Officials said 10 of those who had been unaccounted-for had been spending the holiday with relatives or friends and the remaining person was believed to be with relatives out of state. City safety officials said at the news con-

ference that the cause of the fire was still unknown, but it was believed to have been accidental. (AP)

Fire extinguished: A fire caused by an explosion at the second-largest US oil refinery that killed one person and injured others was extinguished on Monday, an Exxon company spokesman said.

The powerful explosion on Sunday blew out windows in buildings several miles (km) away. The exact cause of the blast has not yet been released, but Exxon officials said a gas leak linked to cold weather afflicting Louisiana may be to blame.

Aids activists walk out: Eleven Aids activists staged a silent protest during a Christmas midnight mass at a Catholic cathedral, walking out of the service as Archbishop Roger Mahony delivered his sermon early Monday.

There were no arrests and the service at St. Viola's Cathedral continued following the silent protest against the church's rejection of the use of condoms to prevent Acquired

Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

About 25 minutes after the midnight mass began, the 11 demonstrators gathered quietly in the back of the sanctuary. They paired off and, with joined hands held high, walked to the front of the church before marching out of the cathedral.

About 100 demonstrators from the vocal Aids activist group act up, and two abortion pro-choice groups, fired up for choice and the National Organisation for Women, had chanted and handed flyers to parishioners entering the church for the midnight mass.

Oranges frozen on trees: Record-setting freezing temperatures hit Florida for the second night in a row on Sunday night, leaving at least four people dead and dealing citrus and vegetable growers a staggering blow.

Growers in the \$2 billion citrus fruit industry reported oranges and grapefruit frozen solid on the trees.

Two deaths were reported in Miami, another in Tampa and a fourth, that of an eight-year-old boy, in Jacksonville.

Obituary

Playwright Beckett is dead

'Words are all we have, no landmarks'

PARIS, Dec. 26. (Agencies) Samuel Beckett, the Nobel-prize winning playwright, poet and novelist of everlasting despair, has died at the age of 83, his publisher said today.

Beckett, whose work depicted death and decay as mankind's sole and inescapable destiny, was buried this morning at the Montparnasse cemetery in a private ceremony, said publisher Jerome Linden.

The playwright died Friday in Paris of respiratory failure, Linden said.

The Irish-born author of "Waiting for Godot" and "Endgame" described a stark world of vagabond couples trapped by an apocalyptic sense of doom and caught in a never-ending, master-slave dialectic often laced with wry humour.

"There are no landmarks in my work," he once said. "We are all adrift. We must invent a world in which to survive, but even this invented world is pervaded by fear and guilt. Our existence is hopeless."

Misery

The theme of misery reappears in the dozens of plays, novels, poems and short stories he wrote in both French and English during a career that spanned more than 50 years.

Critics were scandalised by his experiments on the stage. "Breath," which premiered in 1970, had no actors, no dialogue and no action — just a heap of gloomily lit garbage cans onstage, a baby's screams and the amplified sound of heavy breathing. The play lasted just 30 seconds.

Until French director Roger Blin rescued the long-published but never performed "Waiting for Godot" from obscurity in 1952, Beckett's pessimistic and often difficult style limited his audience to an intellectual elite.

Secretive

"Waiting for Godot," about two tramps awaiting a third, was a huge success and brought the author instant world renown. It was translated into and performed in more than 20 languages, and helped Beckett win the Nobel prize for literature in 1969.

Beckett was secretive about his private life, granting only rare interviews. Even the date of his birth was wrapped in mystery. He said he was born in Dublin on Good Friday, April 13, 1906. But his biographer, Deirdre Bair, suggested he was really born a month earlier, with Beckett shifting it to the anniversary of the crucifixion to boost his self-made legend.

He studied modern languages at Trinity College, Dublin, and first came to Paris in 1928 to lecture in English at the prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure.

Marriage

After Beckett's father, William France Beckett, died in Dublin in 1933, his mother urged Beckett to drop his literary ambitions and take up some serious profession.

To escape her and the stifling middle-class atmosphere of his family, Beckett settled permanently in Paris in 1937.

In 1938, Beckett was stabbed in a Paris street brawl. A deep knife wound pierced his lung and narrowly missed his heart. A pianist passing by on her bicycle stopped to help the gravely injured man and have him taken to hospital.

The pianist, Suzanne Deschevaux-Dumesnil, became his lifelong companion and they married in secret in 1961. She died July 17 at 89. The couple had no children.

Resistance

During World War II, they worked with the underground resistance movement in Nazi-occupied France and was awarded the Croix de Guerre with gold star in 1945.

Beckett, who all his life shunned politics, later said he joined the resistance not to help France win the war, but "to fight the Germans who were making life hell for my friends."

"Words are all we have," Beckett once said. Yet, as time went on, writing became more difficult.

In 1980, he published "Compagnie," a short literary text followed by "Mal vu Mal dit" in 1981. A year later, he published "Catastrophe et Autres Dramaticules," an anthology of short plays.

"At the end of my work, there is nothing but dust," Beckett once said.

On his 80th birthday in 1986, universities and theatres around the world honoured Beckett with conferences, readings and special seasons devoted to his work.

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'Nothing but dust'

File photo of playwright Beckett who died Dec. 22. (Reuter wirephoto)

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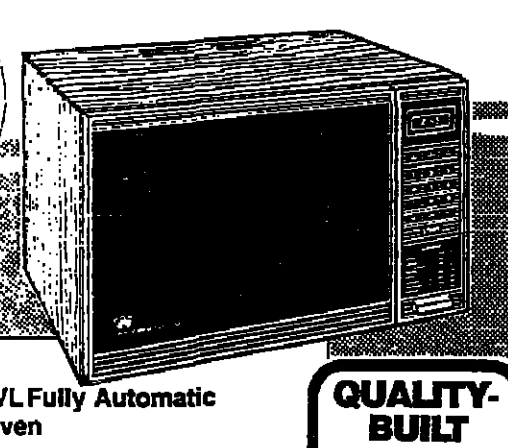
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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1989

First case of frozen egg twins

TOKYO, Dec 26, (UPI): Twin babies have been born to a 37-year-old woman in Japan's first case of artificial insemination using frozen eggs, doctors reported today.

The doctors at Tokyo dental college general hospital in Ichikawa near Tokyo said the mother and babies, both girls, were doing well.

They said the babies, weighing 2.16 pounds (2,346 g) and 5.95 pounds (2,706 g), were born two weeks prematurely at the hospital early Monday by means of a caesarean operation.

"Her pregnancy and delivery were normal, and I don't think the babies are significantly different from average babies in terms of their growth, weight or height," Toranoshi Ono, head of the hospital, told reporters.

"We conducted thorough examinations after the delivery, but we did not find anything unusual," he added.

The births followed three unsuccessful attempts at the hospital since last March, the doctors said.

It was the first successful case in Japan in which the mother's eggs were artificially fertilized with the father's sperm in test tubes and then the fertilized eggs were frozen for preservation.

The process has a higher success rate than ordinary artificial insemination as it enables doctors to implant eggs when the mother is in an ovulation period, the doctors said.

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Royals attend Xmas Mass

Prince Harry holds the Princess of Wales' hand as his brother William (left) and other members of the British royal family enter the church for Christmas Morning Service Dec 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

Nine killed in Los Angeles

Christmas violence

LOS ANGELES, Dec 26, (UPI): Christmas offered little respite from the unrelenting violence plaguing Los Angeles with at least nine slayings marring the holiday weekend, authorities said today.

In the latest killing, a 29-year-old man was found dead by a south Los Angeles resident who walked into his backyard about 8 am Christmas morning to discover the body lying in an alley by his house, police Sgt Michael Darling said.

The victim, whose name was not released until his family could be found, had been shot to death. No motive was known.

Gang violence also flared up, with three people killed in youth gang-related attacks, including a 15-year-old boy shot to death Christmas Eve in a territorial dispute with rivals in south central Los Angeles.

The victim's friend, Carlos Perez, also 15, was wounded in the gunfire, which broke out about 5 pm Sunday, detective Paul Mize said.

Police withheld the dead youth's name until his family could be notified.

At about the same time, a 19-year-old man, also not immediately identified, was killed in a gang-related drive-by shooting in east Los Angeles, sheriff's deputies said.

In another incident, Steven Renell Williams, 25, identified by police as a gang member, was killed late Saturday in a drive-by shooting while standing with a group of people, detective Bernie Skiles said.

Another gang member, Alejandro Lopez, 19, of Los Angeles, was on life-support systems after he was shot by member of a rival gang Friday night, sheriff's deputies said. Two teenage boys were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder in the shooting, but two other suspects escaped.

In another Christmas Eve slaying, Anna Alfaro, 22, was dragged from her apartment in Van Nuys by a gunman who pulled her behind a nearby house and shot her in the head, Sgt Wendy Massa said.

About noon Sunday, sheriff's homicide detectives were called to a site off the southbound Antelope valley freeway to investigate the discovery of a man's body. The cause of the man's death was not immediately determined and the victim carried no identification.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Vocalist Bobby Brown has been nominated for American music awards in five categories and video dance queen Paula Abdul and rapper Tone Loc have been named four times each.

Nominees for the 17th annual entertainment awards were chosen by record sales and by voting in a nation-wide poll. They were announced at a news conference at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Winners of the 27 awards, organized in six categories, will be named during a three-hour special at the shrine auditorium in Los Angeles on Jan 22.

The nominees were selected from year-end sales records monitored by Cash Box, the music industry trade publication. (AP)

NEW YORK: Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi may take a vacation to Colorado and Florida as he awaits trial on charges that he helped Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos in the alleged plunder of the Philippine treasury.

Khashoggi has been free on \$10 million bail since he was extradited to this country from Switzerland in July. Conditions on his bail include that he remain in New York and that his movements be monitored by an electronic bracelet.

Khashoggi, who has pleaded innocent to the charges, has been living in a Fifth Avenue penthouse in New York City. His trial with Mrs Marcos is scheduled to begin March 14.

NEW YORK: Author Norman Mailer is upset about a line in the new one-man Broadway play "Tm" that alludes to a 29-year-old incident in which the writer allegedly stabbed his wife.

Mailer said in a letter to co-producer Lewis Allen that the reference was "kind of crass," according to the New York Times.

"It's an ugly line designed to cater to rich, out-of-town yahoos," Mailer wrote to Allen, who also is husband of the playwright Jay Presson Allen.

LOS ANGELES: Actor Daniel Day Lewis says that confining himself to a wheelchair for the six weeks of filming "My Left Foot" was necessary in portraying disabled Irish artist Christy Brown.

"I took the liberty of thinking that it was imperative to do it this way and did not think about any inconvenience I might have caused because, in the end, it was beneficial to show the people on the set what we were trying to do," he said.

Lewis remained in the wheelchair even during breaks, communicating only with grunts and requiring aides to feed and carry him.

Brown, who died in 1981, was written off by actors as a mental defective but later rose to prominence as a writer and painter.

LONDON: Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger has accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages in the high court for an untrue story in the tabloid, News of the World, which claimed he held "fervent Nazi and anti-Semitic views."

Schwarzenegger's lawyer, James Price, told the court it was now accepted by News Group Newspapers Ltd., publishers of the Sunday

paper, and journalist Sharon Ring, that there was no truth in any of the allegations.

The Feb 21, 1988 editions of the paper also alleged that Schwarzenegger, a native of Austria, was a "secret admirer of Adolf Hitler."

Price told the court that the article in Feb 21, 1988 editions, was picked up by press agencies and

published around the world.

Robert Clinton, the paper's lawyer, said his clients deeply regretted the damage and a distress caused.

"My clients accept that Mr Schwarzenegger has never espoused Nazi and anti-Semitic views and has never been an admirer of Adolf Hitler and what he and his civil regime represent," he said. (AP)

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INTERNATIONAL

Japan's foreign policy goals set

TOKYO, Dec. 26, (AP)—Improvements in East-West relations should not end Japan's military alliance with the United States, because other nations don't want an independent armed Japan, a Foreign Ministry policy paper says.

The new policy paper, made available today, also says Japan should try to build a climate that will help reduce tension on the Korean peninsula and should work to reduce instability in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting economic development.

It says Japan should take an active role in the search for peace in Cambodia and try to draw China and the communist nations in Indochina into Asia's "sphere of prosperity."

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama indicated today that Japan is likely to resume its economic assistance to China early next year, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported. Japan halted its assistance this spring.

Nakayama said Japan should do as much as possible to support reform in China and encourage its open-door economic policy, NHK reported.

Visit
Today, the government announced that Nakayama will visit Thailand and Malaysia for five days beginning Jan. 2 for talks on Cambodia and other issues.

Nakayama also is to meet with Japanese ambassadors in the region to discuss Japan's policy toward Asia and the Pacific nations following recent changes in East-West ties, officials said.

The policy paper says Japan's military alliance with the United States has helped prevent other Asian nations from feeling threatened by Japanese military strength.

"In addition to the need for a reliable deterrent force while Soviet military strength in the area has grown, or at least not declined, neighbouring nations would not welcome a separation of Japanese military power from the United States," the paper says.

"Therefore, despite changes in East-West relations, we must maintain the Japan-US security treaty."

The United States deploys about 45,000 troops in Japan, mostly in the Pacific islands of Okinawa, under the US-Japan security treaty.

Earmarked

The government has earmarked 4.135 trillion yen (\$28.7 billion) for Japan's defence buildup in fiscal 1990, beginning April 1. The sum represents a 5.3 per cent increase over the current year and accounts for 0.99 per cent of the nation's gross national product.

The 1990 fiscal budget is scheduled to be finalised at a cabinet session scheduled for Friday, government officials said.

Nakayama said Japan should try to further promote the existing co-operative relationship with the United States in all fields, military and economic.

But the paper said Japan also should improve its ties with Western European nations.

And the paper says good Japanese-Soviet relations are a requirement for true peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

Relations between Japan and the Soviet Union have been chilled for decades by a dispute over a group of islands off northern Japan that Soviet troops seized at the end of World War II. Japan has insisted that the islands be returned before there can be any substantial improvements in bilateral ties.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will announce a new Japanese initiative next month in Berlin, a Japanese government source reported in Tokyo today.

The sources added that the new foreign initiative will mark a departure from the old protectionist policy toward the European Economic Community (EEC) which is planning to complete integration by 1992.

Kaifu during his visit to eight European countries next January, will announce the new policy in a speech to be presented at the Japanese centre in West Berlin on Jan. 8.

China claims Mao revival as birthday is marked

BEIJING, Dec. 26, (AP)—China marked the 66th birthday of Mao Tse-tung today amid official claims that young people disillusioned with Western philosophies are rediscovering truth in the works of the late "great helmsman."

The official press says there is a quiet resurgence of interest in Mao, the father of Communist China. Since his death in 1976, Mao also has been blamed for bringing great suffering to China with his radical policies.

Shanghai's Wen Hui daily said that

college students, after travelling the "wind-ing road" of fascination with Western thought, "have returned to our forefathers to ask for advice. ... Is this not a good omen?"

The implication is that college students, after the government's bloody suppression of their pro-democracy movement this spring and months of heavy political indoctrination, now realise that Mao and Marx had the right idea all along.

Young people questioned privately said

they had heard of no one rushing out to buy "the selected works of Mao Tse-tung."

"Mao is a kind of cover," said one graduate student.

"Journalists have to perform their job, they have to write something," and Mao is safe subject that adheres to party line, he said.

Crowds at Mao's mausoleum in Tiananmen Square, where his body lies in state, were far smaller on his birthday today than in previous years. A bitterly cold Siberian

wind may have kept many away, as did the continuation of martial law in Beijing, which limits access to the square to those with proper IDs.

One vendor outside the mausoleum said 10,000 to 20,000 people a day viewed Mao's body before June. Now, the number is 4,000 to 5,000 daily.

The overseas edition of the official People's Daily said Mao's 66th birthday was being marked with publication of a tape entitled "a truly great man of no equal in his

time," on which 12 of Mao's poems are set to traditional music. A book chronicling Mao's family line back to the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) also was published.

A check of several bookstores found neither tape nor works by Mao.

China has replaced senior Politburo member Yao Yilin as chairman of the state's highest economic planning body. He remains vice-premier.

State radio today quoted Premier Li Peng as saying the move was aimed at giving Yao,

72, more time for his other responsibilities in the state council, China's cabinet.

China said yesterday it has arrested 20 Hong Kong and Macao residents on charges of trying to smuggle dissidents out of the country.

It also accused a Hong Kong group of demanding democratic reforms in China by running an "underground railroad," by which dozens of dissidents have fled abroad since the army cracked down on pro-democracy protests in June.

**Pope blesses all**

Pope John Paul II blesses pilgrims and visitors below in St. Peter's Square, from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, after imparting

his Urbi et Orbi blessing to the city and the world on Christmas Day. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gorbachev blasts Lithuania step

Vow to hold USSR together

MOSCOW, Dec. 26, (AP)—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev blasted the Lithuanian Communist Party's declaration of independence from Moscow as a bid to play up to Baltic nationalists, Tass said today.

Despite the Soviet leader's tough criticism at a meeting of the national Communist Party's central committee yesterday, no decisions were made and the party's policy-making body began a second day of meetings today.

"No part of the Soviet Communist Party has the right to decide the question about its independence existence with its own programme and rules, not taking into account the position of the Soviet Communist Party as a whole," Gorbachev said. "And this means that the Communist Party of Lithuania was and remains a part of the united Soviet Communist Party."

Tass, in a report on the first day of the Central Committee meeting, said Gorbachev accused the leaders of the Lithuanian party as having "gone over to playing up to nationalist, separatist forces."

Gorbachev tried for several months to head off the split that the Lithuanian party declared in Vilnius on Dec. 20, and at the Congress of People's Deputies meeting in Moscow on Saturday lashed out at separatists.

"Today, to realise the right to self-determination through secession means to blow up the union, set the people against each other and sow conflict and blood and death," Gorbachev said. "That's what separatists are pushing us towards."

He also told the central committee that the Soviet government should consider the legal status of public movements that are "carrying out separatist activities and whipping up nationalist terror."

Gorbachev did not identify any such organisations, but in the context of the debate he likely was referring to Lithuania's Sąjūdis and other organisations pushing for sovereignty.

Edvardas Pocius, an editor of Lithuania's television, said a commission that had been formed by the central committee to work out the problem included Brazauskas and several other Lithuanian communists.

Lithuanian party leader Algirdas Brazauskas, in an interview with the Interfax news service published today, defended the Lithuanian party's decision as a "step towards renewal of the party."

Brazauskas and other Lithuanian party leaders maintain that the Soviet leader has shown understanding of their move.

Gorbachev swore to hold together both the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet Union.

"If we cross this line we can be said to be deliberately aiming at breaking up the Soviet Union," he said. "The current party and state leadership will not allow the union to split."

Tough talking between liberals and conservatives went on throughout yesterday and the committee decided to continue the debate today.

Gorbachev described the Lithuanian decision as a blow to "our hopes and plans for renewing socialist society in the spirit of humanism and democracy."

"The existence of a single, firm and powerful Soviet Union is the pressing need of the time, of the whole existing complex system of international security," he added.

"No one can be interested in this system's disintegration that is fraught with the destabilisation of the political situation in Europe and the world," he said.

Gorbachev, who denounced nationalism within the Soviet republics as a poison, said the Lithuanian decision was null and void since the local party did not have the right to break away from the national party.

The debate appears to have pitted advocates of greater autonomy from Moscow against conservatives who view the Lithuanian decision as a threat to stability.

Party leaders from the country's 15 republics also addressed the meeting.

Among those taking part in the debate were Algirdas Brazauskas—named to head the independent Lithuanian party—as well as party leaders of the other two Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia, both proponents of autonomy.

Other speakers, including the party chiefs of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine, were likely to have denounced the measure.

**Demo for peace**

Self-proclaimed Austrian prophet Waluliso (Wasser, Luft, Licht, Sonne—water, air, light, sun) demonstrates for East-West peace at East Berlin's newly opened Brandenburg Gate Dec. 25 as thousands of West Berliners stream across the Berlin Wall after the communist authorities abolished visa and currency exchange requirements. (Reuter wirephoto)

Bulgarians demonstrate

Quit, tells rally

SOFIA, Dec. 26, (Reuter): Five thousand protesters in central Sofia yesterday demanded that ruling Communist Party leaders and Parliament resign, turning Bulgaria's first outdoor mass in 40 years into a pro-democracy rally.

Protesters demanded abolition of the first article of Bulgaria's constitution that guarantees the leading role of the Communist Party in government.

Although widespread Bulgarian protests against communist rule broke out last month, yesterday's demonstration was further emboldened by neighbouring Romania's national uprising against deposed president Nicolae Ceausescu's regime.

The Bulgarian party, shaken by public anger over delayed reforms, promised on Dec. 15 to end its monopoly on power when it meets in January.

Its declaration was aimed at heading off a repetition of protests the previous evening, when some 40,000 protesting Bulgarians thronged outside Parliament to demand the change.

Thousands returned yesterday to attend Christmas Mass outside Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the first open-air religious service since the Communist Party took power after World War Two.

The party had banned outdoor services, but allowed the faithful to conduct mass inside churches.

Independent trade union organisers of yesterday's protest promised to continue the rally non-stop, and volunteers joined in a hunger strike.

They also urged quick liberalisation of the political system and freedom of the press.

One Bulgarian journalist said Romania's determined ending of Ceausescu's 24-year grip on power was the catalyst for the rally.

Socialist deputy escapes car blast

Greek police in the dark

ATHENS, Dec. 26, (AP): A controversial socialist deputy and publisher escaped injury today when his motor car was blown up outside his home, police said.

They said that an explosion caused by dynamite destroyed Makis Kouris' car only minutes after he parked it outside his suburban home at 5 am (0300 GMT) but that no one was injured.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast. It was unknown whether Kouris had been threatened in the past.

A police official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that police did not suspect any of Greece's three well-known urban guerrilla organisations of involvement in the attack. He did not elaborate.

The Kouris' publication is unequivocal in its support for former socialist premier Andreas Papandreu, but critics both in and out of this party have charged them with using populist and muckraking tactics to vilify political rivals.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jetfighter crashes in S. Korea:

A US air force F-16 jetfighter crashed Tuesday southwest of Seoul, but the pilot ejected, officials said.

A statement issued by the air force said the jet crashed shortly after noon south of Kunsan Air Base, located 210 km (130 miles) southwest of Seoul.

The aircraft was assigned to the 8th tactical fighter wing and was on route to a local training mission, the statement said. (AP)

Advised to prepare for storm:

Residents on Guam and Saipan were advised Tuesday to make precautionary preparations for an intense storm that closed to within 200 miles (320 km) of the islands in the western Pacific before stalling.

Typhoon Jack, with sustained winds of 135 mile (215 km) per hour and gusts to 165 miles (265 km) per hour, had been moving on a track that would take it between the islands when it stalled early Tuesday.

"It's been stationary for 11 hours now, but it is expected to move nearer Saipan late Wednesday or early Thursday morning," Ben Cabrera, an official with Guam's Civil Defence Agency said Tuesday afternoon. (AP)

Quake hits Quebec:

An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale rumbled through a remote area in northern Quebec Monday, but no injuries or deaths were reported, the US geological survey said.

The tremor struck the sparsely populated semi-Tundra area, 1,000 miles (1,600 km) from Ottawa and east of the Hudson Bay, about 9:25 am est (1425 GMT), said Don Kelly, a spokesman for the geological survey in Washington, D.C.

Kelly said a quake measuring 6.3 on the open-ended Richter Scale would "certainly cause damage in an urban area," but he said the tremor struck a remote area "with only small towns here and there. It was extremely north," he said. (UPI)

Nuns end fast:

Two Catholic nuns ended their two-week fast to protest US aid to El Salvador and the reported government crackdown on churches of all denominations in the war-torn Central American country.

"Our nation has become hardened because our eyes cannot see, our hearts don't love and our bodies can't act for justice," sister Betty Campbell, 55, of San Antonio said after she and sister Mary O'Keefe, 70, ended their fast Christmas Day at the San Fernando Cathedral in downtown San Antonio.

Killer bee tracker**'Buzz buster'**

OAK RIDGE, Tennessee, Dec. 26, (AP): Behind the security gates at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, researchers are quietly preparing for an invasion. They've come up with one device to tell friend from foe and another to track the enemy.

The invaders began their advance about 40 years ago and now are gathering in Mexico for a final assault expected some time next year.

The invaders are aggressive Africanized bees, sometimes known as "killer bees" because they have brought death to animals and people. They've also disrupted honeybee colonies.

Researchers at the federal laboratory here have developed a hand-held sensor called a "buzz buster" that can distinguish between the tamer domestic honeybees and their more aggressive cousins, and a prototype of a device to track the Africanized bees using a solar-powered, infrared-pulsating, microphone bee backpack.

to incorporate the treaty's provisions into US law have failed until this year.

Scientists, defence analysts and lawmakers credit the changing atmosphere for arms control agreements and the work of a freshman senator from Wisconsin.

He is Democratic Sen. Herbert Kohl, who with the help of a longtime opponent of biological and chemical weapons, Sen. David Pryor, convinced the Justice Department and the full Senate to support the

biological weapons anti-terrorism act of 1989.

In the waning hours of the congressional session on Nov. 21, the Senate approved the legislation by voice vote. The required house passage and presidential approval appear likely early next year.

"By approving the legislation, the Senate has signalled the world that the United States is serious about controlling these abominable creations," Kohl said on the

O'Keefe recalled her first fast in Chicago in 1980,

when four church women were slain in El Salvador. "After just a few days, it was no longer news," O'Keefe said. (UPI)

Vietnam, Italy agree:

Vietnam's Prime Minister Do Muoi and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, on the first official visit to Hanoi by an Italian foreign minister, agreed to broaden co-operation between their two countries, the Vietnam news agency said.

The agency, in a dispatch received Tuesday, said Muoi and De Michelis met Monday at the presidential palace in Hanoi.

"Do Muoi warmly welcomed the first Vietnam visit of the Italian foreign minister, considering it a new step of development of the two countries' relations," the agency said.

It said the two leaders signed agreements to increase co-operation, but did not describe the accords. (UPI)

**Havel stuck**

A Prague citizen sticks a poster of presidential candidate Vaclav Havel, on a wall at Wenceslas Square Dec. 25. Presidential elections are to be held in Prague on Dec. 29. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pope greets pilgrims:

Pope John Paul II began winding down his hectic Christmas holiday schedule Tuesday as he greeted pilgrims celebrating the feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

Speaking from the window of his Vatican study overlooking St. Peter's Square on a sunny morning, the Polish Pope sent his best wishes to a crowd gathered near the Vatican's larger-than-life nativity crèche and 30-metre-high Christmas tree.

"Once again I wish a merry Christmas to everyone present," John Paul said. "I hope these days are fruitful for our spiritual renovation and also for our rest. (UPI)

4 die in ethnic clashes:

Four people have been killed and six have been wounded in Pakistani ethnic violence during the last 24 hours, officials said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, meanwhile, met with government officials and decided to expand the police force to halt the disturbances, an official said. (AP)

US on verge of making production of biological weapons illegal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26, (AP): Twenty years after former President Richard Nixon ordered the destruction of the US stockpile of biological weapons, the government is on the verge of making development and possession of the weapons illegal.

Nixon's directive met with little resistance and the United States joined the Soviet Union and 109 other countries in signing a 1972 pact to prohibit production and possession of the weapons. But efforts

to incorporate the treaty's provisions into US law have failed until this year.

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Senate floor.

By definition, biological weapons are a form of bacteria, virus, fungus or naturally occurring toxin. A biological weapon could be unleashed on an unsuspecting public by using it in a liquid to contaminate water or in an aerosol that is dropped by bomb.

In 1925, the Geneva Protocol banned the first use in war of biological and chemical weapons, but did not address the development, production, possession or transfer of the weapons.

UPON CLOSE



Aquino: changes

Aquino plans to revamp cabinet

MANILA, Dec. 26, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino, widely criticised for retaining incompetent advisers, said today she would revamp her cabinet "very soon."

She did not say when she would make the changes, but presidential Press Secretary Adolfo Azcuna told reporters she might make an announcement toward the end of the week.

"I have consulted various sectors and we are now in the process of announcing very soon changes in the cabinet towards more effective performance by them in the delivery of public service," Aquino said in a written statement.

Army rebels, accusing the president and her cabinet of incompetence, this month launched an abortive coup, the sixth military mutiny faced by Aquino since she took office nearly four years ago.

The rebels have demanded, among other things, the resignation of Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, accusing him of tolerating corruption in the military and of bungling the war against communist insurgents.

Businessmen and the media have criticised the cabinet for breakdowns in public services, including frequent power cuts and a chaotic public transport system.

Octopus overturns canoe killing an infant

MANILA, Dec. 26, (AP): Survivors of a Christmas Eve sea accident said today a giant octopus had overturned their motorised canoe, which had been carrying 15 people. An infant was killed in the accident.

Fishermen found 12 survivors yesterday clinging to the overturned 18-foot (5.5-metre) craft, called a pumpboat, and recovered the body of a 2-week-old boy off the southern Philippine coastal town of Manticao, about 27 km (17 miles) from the accident site, police said today.

All the survivors suffered from severe sunburn but none was seriously injured, said Manticao police Cpl. Samuel Cabasan.

Manila newspapers said two other passengers also were found yesterday.

The Philippine Navy and the coast guard headquarters in Manila said they had not received any report about the sinking in Iligan Bay, about 75 km (490 miles) southeast of the capital.

"The boat was moving slowly since it was overcrowded. Suddenly, the waters began to bubble," said survivor Agapito Caballero, a fish trader. "Then, with the use of flashlights, we saw something that looked like a giant octopus. It was as huge as an imported cow."

Caballero's brother, Alfredo, whose baby boy died, said the octopus grabbed the vessel's outriggers and overturned it but then dived and did not harm the passengers.

"We could not believe it was a monster that attacked the pumpboat," Alfredo added.

Manila newspapers quoted boat owner Eleuterio Sarino, one of the survivors found separately from the main group, as saying the boat was submerged by huge waves. He did not mention the octopus.

The group had chartered the fishing vessel to go to a nearby town to visit relatives.

Singh pledges to uncover Bofors

Swedish firm blacklisted

NEW DELHI, Dec. 26, (Reuters): India's new prime minister said today his government would not do business with Swedish weapons maker Bofors unless the company named Indians who took bribes on a 1987 arms deal.

Vishwanath Pratap Singh was accused in Parliament of failing to pursue his allegations that Bofors paid bribes to Indian officials to secure a \$1.3 billion contract for army field guns.

"Considering the overall conduct of Bofors... my government has decided to debar Bofors from entering into contracts with us for future supply of weapons and weapon systems until they satisfy us in their conduct in regard to the 155 mm howitzer guns deal," he replied.

Tamil rebels yield to army

Battered by Tigers

COLOMBO, Dec. 26, (AP): More than 150 members of an outlawed Tamil militia surrendered to the Sri Lankan Army after 44 of their comrades were killed by rival Tamil guerrillas, military officials said today.

A bedraggled Tamil National Army band walked into an army camp in the Polonnaruwa district 165 km (103 miles) northeast of Colombo yesterday, a few hours after they were attacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the officials said.

The group of 155 militiamen was taken into protective custody by Sri Lankan government troops camped at Udumwela, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The military band in Colombo said the militiamen who surrendered yesterday brought with them an array of weapons, including 83 Soviet-designed AK47 assault rifles, a light machine gun, four sub-machine-guns, five mortars and two launchers, five hand grenades and a large amount of ammunition.

The Sri Lankan government, with Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne serving as chief accuser, has alleged that India helped create the Tamil National Army to protect pro-Indian Tamils.

The Indian force started arriving in Sri Lanka on July 30, 1987, under an accord President Ransinghe Premadasa's predecessor, president J.R. Jayewardene, signed with India in an effort to settle the Tamil insurrection.

But the Tigers promptly reneged on the accord and started attacking the Indians who were supposed to oversee a surrender of arms.

The Tigers this year opened negotiations with Premadasa's government to enter the political mainstream, but also stepped up their attacks in a power struggle with Indian-supported rival Tamils. Four weeks ago they ousted the Tamil National Army from the major east coast town of Batticaloa, killing at least 100 militiamen in the process.

The Sri Lankan Army, which stayed out of the fray, Wijeratne and other officials said they did not want the majority ethnic group to be accused of killing minority Tamils.

Tamil Tiger rebels killed 44 fighters of the rival Tamil National Army in eastern Sri Lanka in bitter fighting on Christmas Day, Sri Lankan security sources said today.

The fighting broke out after more than 300 armed TNA members, reportedly trained by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF), attempted to flee from the eastern Batticaloa district to the northeastern Trincomalee district.

"With the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) dominating the Batticaloa district after IPKF pulled out, the TNA cadres fled to the village of Unnichi. From there they were attempting to flee to Trincomalee to escape Tiger rebels who were in the hunt for them," the security sources said.

"This covers supply of names of recipients and return of money paid in regard to Bofors gun transactions... we will do everything to get the names and come to the truth."

Bofors has denied kickbacks were paid to secure the contract.

Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi has also denied he received bribes. His Congress Party lost last month's general election after Singh's National Front campaigned hard on corruption charges surrounding the Bofors contract.

Singh was barraged with questions from both supporters and opponents in the Rajya Sabha (upper house). He made his statement amid uproar, replying to Subramaniam Swamy, an opponent of both the National Front and Congress.

Swamy alleged the government had lost its appetite for uncovering the truth behind the Bofors deal.

In written replies to other questions on the issue, Singh said his government was seeking help from Swiss authorities in unearthing illegal bank accounts held by Indians.

"He said he was also pressing Sweden to hand over a 1987 report by the Swedish Audit Bureau on the Bofors deal. Sweden in October turned down a similar request by Rajiv's government, saying it was up to Bofors to clarify its transactions."

Only parts of the report have been published. The bureau has said, however, that unaccounted payments were made into secret Swiss bank accounts in connection with the field guns deal.

Asked how much commission had been paid, Singh replied: "So far payments amounting to 319.4 million Swedish kroners (\$50 million) by Bofors have come to light."

Singh also confirmed his government was reviewing an inquiry into allegations that commission was paid on a 1981 contract to buy four submarines from a West German firm of Kiel.

The West German company has denied any wrongdoing.

Singh, who is also defence minister, ordered the inquiry into the German deal in 1987 when he was Rajiv's defence minister.

Singh was expelled from Congress over the investigation and launched his anti-corruption crusade from opposition.



Christmas comes to E. Germany

Two East German policemen join in the Christmas spirit by wearing miniature Santa Claus costumes in East Berlin.

East and West Germans this year celebrated their happiest Christmas in 30 years, with visitors streaming across the Berlin Wall.

In a special Berlin celebration Leonard Bernstein conducted an orchestra and choir from East and West shown live on East and West television and in 21 other countries. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fourteen abducted by Moro gunmen

MANILA, Dec. 26, (AP): Suspected Muslim secessionist rebels kidnapped employees of a logging firm in a remote village in the southern Philippines, the military reported today.

Moro National Liberation Front guerrillas raided early last Sunday a compound of the Tipi Logging Co. in the village of Pilitangan, Wao Town in Lanao Del Sur province, south of Manila, the report said.

Lt. Col. Omar Manabilang, Lanao Del Sur military and police commander, said an undetermined number of rebels entered the compound and rounded up the employees, including security guards.

The armed men then took the employees at gunpoint toward a mountain area, the report said quoting witnesses. There were no reports of injuries resulting from the abduction, it added.

Ransom

Officials of the logging firm told the military they have not received any ransom demand but are reportedly negotiating with the kidnappers, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, chief of the Philippine Constabulary, has warned that the Muslim rebels will stage kidnappings because of "dwindling finances of the splintered secessionist movement."

Montano said business executives and technicians working for private firms and government projects in remote areas are potential victims.

The rebel front is fighting for self-rule for the Muslim minority in the southern Philippines.

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Singh: pressing

Cold kills 13 Bangladeshis

DHAKA, Dec. 26, (Reuters): A cold wave sweeping north Bangladesh has killed at least 13 people, mostly street sleepers, officials said today.

They said nine people, including three women, died of exposure in Rangpur district and four in Pabna in temperatures of six degrees Celsius (42.8 Fahrenheit).

Weather officials said temperatures could drop further.

Nearly 100 Bangladeshis died of exposure last winter, according to official figures.

Police said today at least eight people were killed and nearly 30 injured when a bus fell into a ditch in north Bangladesh on Sunday night in the fog.

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Municipality terminates 2,000 cleaning staff

Bid to rationalise expenses

THE acting director general at Kuwait Municipality Sabah Jaber Al Ali has decided to cancel all grades on which non-Kuwaiti employees were appointed, and terminated the services of 2,000 cleaning staff.

He told a local daily that now appointments will not be privileged with government houses at Kuwait Municipality, and that more attention will be paid to the use of modern computer and microfilm technologies to keep pace with the technological progress and to render easy

services to citizens.

He said that the Municipality would seek specialised services of international and local consultants in its effort to enter its file records and technical data on microfilm, and that a number of departments at the Municipality including the Departments of Expropriation, Building, Planning and General Registry.

He said that the Municipality would also apply the system of decentralised service performance to upgrade services

and facilitate related procedures. Fresh public cleaning services would be provided to areas currently unprivileged, through hiring specialised cleaning companies in chalets areas, and Abdali and Jahra governorate.

Upgrade

He also said that the Municipality had signed a contract with the Kuwait Public Transport Company by which 110 staff would be provided under emergency cases, if some of the cleaning companies should

fail to honour its contractual obligations. He said that the Municipality had embarked on studying the economic feasibility of encouraging public involvement in the business of scrap collecting, treatment of wastes and slaughterhouse refuse recycling.

He said that the municipality was endeavouring to compact its expenditures in line with the government's policy on rationalising public spending, and that the termination of 2,000 cleaning staff was partly made for this purpose.

Debt problem

Banker praises settlement scheme

THE attempt to settle small debts is an important step and local banks can absorb losses sustained by the implementation of the small-debts-settlement recommendation stated in the joint economic committee report, Ali Al Rashid Al Bader, board chairman of the Bank of Kuwait and Middle East, said.

He told a local daily that the recommendation adopted by the committee where clients would be offered the chance to trade their assets, required a number of conditions to ensure its effectiveness.

He said that negotiations involved in the difficult-debts-settlement programme entailed local banks maintaining a vigilant eye on the developments in the sphere of guarantee values, such as equity shares, real estates, trading establishment, and the need to hold continuous co-ordination with clients and the Central Bank. Such extensive follow-up is a very demanding administrative task, he added.

He said that demanding settlement of small debts, on the other hand, is a very good step because it will help reduce the tasks involved in the follow-up and management on the part of banks. It further offers the incentive to debtors to embark on their own economic and practical enterprises trouble-free.

Effects

He added that the settlement of difficult debts within the framework of a fair and well-balanced banking approach also has its own share of positive effects on banks, clients and the national economy in general.

The Central Bank has not as yet issued any constraints or conditions to govern the proposed settlement programmes, pointing out that the exchange of joint debts among banks is aimed at unifying these debts. This will lead to a reduction by 50 per cent of the current demanding task of follow-up on the banks part.

Jaber receives

KUWAIT, Dec 26. (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah received in his office today Kuwaiti Ambassadors to Iraq, Yemen Arab Republic, United Kingdom and they are consecutively Ibrahim Jaseem Al Bahwa, Ibrahim Al Mousa and Ghazi Al Rais.



Science club visited

Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait, Abdul Wahed Bin Masoud yesterday visited the science club and toured its sections. The ambassador who was received by science club officials, praised the high standard and excellent programmes offered by the club.

Education system

Former minister calls for periodic evaluation

THERE is no need to establish educational areas in the Ministry of Education which will only tend to waste public funds, Saleh Abdul Malek Al Saleh, a former minister of education said and added that one department of education is adequate to supervise all school in the areas.

He described the educational system in Kuwait as fairly developed and encompasses the latest educational system. However, he said it is pragmatic to conduct periodic evaluation of the educational system to improve its level.

The existence and increase of foreign schools in Kuwait is a cause of contradictions in school curriculums, the official said. He emphasised on the need to concentrate on providing added care to Arabic and Islamic interests and understand the negative effects of foreign schools in the country.

He commented that these schools were established for children of foreign expatriates who work in Kuwait and not for Arabs. The existence of our children in these school — specially in the first years of their study is dangerous. The Arab pupils feel

strange in these schools, just as foreign pupils feel strange in Arabic schools, he said.

Saleh said that early retirement of teachers is dangerous and has administrative negative effects and called on the government to amend these laws by increasing the period of service to 25 or 30 years.

He called for a clear plan of education which would take into consideration the self-sufficiency of the teaching staff. To achieve this aim, the numbers of graduates of institutes and universities for several coming years and the number of schools that will be built in future along with birth in Kuwait should be predetermined.

Corporal punishment being meted out to students in schools should be prohibited by the ministry as this is not a modern method, the official said. He recommended, instead, a more active role of the family in controlling and correcting the behaviour of pupils.

Speaking on the cheating phenomenon of pupils at exams, he described it as a serious problem that threatens the very fabric of our future society.

Support to industry imperative, says Ojail

THE Shuaiba Area Authority yesterday wound up its Silver Jubilee festivities which lasted for three days, with the deputy director general Naser Al Ojail delivering the final statements and related recommendations adopted by the symposium held on the subject of developing industrial area.

More than 45 agencies participated including ministries, government bodies, as well as investment, financing, banking, development, academic and consultant agencies were involved.

He said the recommendations adopted at the symposium included the need to effect the necessary co-ordination of work among the GCC industrial area authorities in the field of exchanging visits, utilising expertise and upgrading performance.

He added that other recommendations stressed the need to support all industrial areas financially, technically and administratively, via a liaison officer empowered by each area.

Co-ordination with the factories and companies sharing the same industrial functions within each area was also a requirement worth working for. Construction and development of industrial areas as a concept should be accorded top-level attention as a major tributary to rationalising national industrial development, Ojail said.

He added that the recommendations also underlined the need to hold symposia and seminars on a regular annual basis within a framework of an Arab strategy and with the participation of representatives from the producers and manufacturers sector.

The recommendations also called on all industrial facilities to utilise the data and other information facilities provided by the Organisation of Gulf Industrial Consultancies Data Bank, and the need to accord serious attention to the treatment and reuse of industrial wastes.

The recommendations also called for the issue of special legislations on environmental protection against industrial pollution to keep pace with the rapid developments made in the field of industrialisation, regulate the issue of industrial practice licences, and ensure safe disposal of toxic industrial wastes.

Accident rate

DR Abdul Raheem Al Zaid, director of Al Razi Orthopaedic Hospital stated that Kuwait has a high rate of traffic accidents.

In an interview with "Al Salama" magazine, he added that injuries resulting from these accidents are quite often of a serious nature entailing lengthy and costly medical services.

He indicated that a total of 423 traffic accident patients were admitted to the hospital in 1987 and this number increased to 453 in 1988.

Zaid said that on an average, patients hospitalisation last for 17 days averaging KD696 each. On an average a bed at the hospital costs KD40 each per day, while beds at the intensive care units cost KD176 on a daily basis.

Drug addiction in schools increasing

Educationists call for better control

THE issue of narcotics in Kuwait cannot be concealed anymore as the vast spread of addiction has obviously taken on alarming proportions in the past few years. Huge quantities of narcotics apprehended estimated at millions of narcotic pills topped by heroin and other types of drugs only represent a tip of the iceberg.

Billions of pills are being smuggled into Kuwait successfully by narcotic dealers and this mammoth contraband finds its way into the hands of youth destroying both body and mind. Poignantly, it is on this very group of youths that Kuwait relies on in shouldering the development and progress of the country and no effort can be considered too great in eradicating this deadly menace.

This blight which is afflicting the entire world has formed its own hidden empire and ruthless armies of goons who use the latest arms and technology to spread its tentacles of death and destruction of individuals and homes and amassing huge illegal fortunes for the "drug mafia".

When this blight threatens a peaceful and tranquil society atmosphere such as Kuwait, a concerted effort by all the highest authorities in the land, institutions, including the teaching staff, parents, elders and the media should be geared to address this scourge.

A local daily interviewed a number of specialists to discuss with them ways and means of impressively projecting the deadly consequences of drug addiction and the modalities of eradication.

Increase

Dr Bader Al Shaibani, a professor at Kuwait University Education College said that there is a clear danger in the increase of addiction cases among adults and children who are mostly at the college and school level. He added that this group of youths and children are more liable to be subjected to fall into the nets of narcotic dealers due to the fact that they are not aware of its dangers and health and social outcomes.

A teacher at one of the foreign schools in Kuwait said that the school administration had apprehended several students who exchanged narcotic pills among themselves. He said that students confessed that they used this pills to feel more relaxed. Some students revealed that they believed that female classmates are more inclined to form deep friendships with students who have experienced the "narcotic scene" as they consider them to have more manhood and freedom from traditional restrictions of our society.

An educational official at one of the government secondary schools pointed out that two groups of students were apprehended for taking narcotics and alcohol. He indicated that the first group included seven students and the other three.

He indicated that after conducting investigations into both the groups, he found that the first group were habitual users of narcotics, while the second group, younger in age, occasionally imbibed liquor and smoked cigarettes.

Resources

The official said that one of the students in the group of seven was the supplier and he in turn obtained it from his older brother. He added that the matter was handled in a confidential manner, after he received firm assurances from parents and culprits alike that the offence will not be repeated in future.

He attributed these offences to the availability of unlimited financial resources, lack of parental control and a lack of objectives on the part of the offenders.

Sharif Ghazal Waqwan, a specialist professor at the Humanities Institute indicated that study conducted on 70 narcotics addicts at the Psychiatry Hospital in Kuwait revealed that most of the addicts belong to the adult group and that they use liquor along with narcotics.

She added that addiction to narcotics has appeared among Kuwait Ministry of Education students, particularly at foreign schools which include students belonging to 60 different nationalities. She indicated that each of the students have their own traditions and norms and taht in order to make conversation easier among them and out of curiosity they go into the world of drugs away from parental and school censorship. She said that most of the sample groups range between 15 and 25 years of age.

Waqwan explained that when comparing Kuwait with other countries, we find that the problem of narcotics is still limited to a specific group of individuals. She pointed out that rapid social and technological transformation witnessed by Kuwait after the discovery of oil has caused weaker family ties and in turn weaker social censorship. She indicated that foreign influences in addition to opening peoples minds to Western ideas and norms through travelling and the mass media have increased the spread of narcotics, particularly among the young.

She said that in order to treat this problem before it is too late, a special and clear protective strategy is required jointly carried out by official society

authorities. She stressed that the problem requires preparing educational programmes directed towards the upbringing of children of different age groups.

A researcher at the Ministry of Education Fatooh Al Mjidi indicated that despite the fact that Kuwait as a society did not yet reach the dangerous zone in the field of addiction to narcotics, compared to other countries, still there are existing local indicators which are not to be neglected. She said efforts should be made to prevent this phenomenon from spreading further in society.

Mjidi added that one of the important indicators shows that 11 per cent of patients are addicts adding that during early 1970's the percentage did not even exceed the 2 per cent.

Mjidi indicated that the highest number of addicts were found among school students. She said that in order to face the problem of addiction among students, there are two parallel factors, the first could be achieved through information and curricula and the second which is considered the practical side is teaching youths to follow these teachings.

Protection

Speaking on the issue, Abdul Rahman Al Khodari, under-secretary at the Ministry of Education categorically denied that narcotic addiction is rampant among ministry students. He added that the Ministry of Education is keen that educational curricular and some student activities include scientific information and warnings against the dangers of narcotics and liquor. He stressed that this has become a part of the ministry's educational policy to protect students from delinquency.

He called for more parental control and added that youths at this stage in their lives would be prone to experiment with different modes of living — particularly those which are prohibited by norms and local social systems. He said that the Ministry of Education has specialists at schools to deal with the problem, but extensive co-operation is needed to achieve success.

Ibrahim Aba Al Khalil, director of Farwaniya Educational Area rejected the method followed by some educational officials at schools in dealing with such matters on an individual basis and in confidentiality. He said that such cases should be immediately reported to the ministry of any other concerned authority in the country. He said taht actual statistics are hindered and a lack of accurate statistics in this respect hinders the efforts of authorities in addressing this deadly menace.



Omar Sharif for women

The well-known film star Omar Sharif yesterday launched his new perfume "Omar Sharif pour femme" at the Meridien Hotel. This fragrance for women to be worn every day is designed by Francoise Caron, creator of a variety of perfumes.

"My inspiration was ancient Egypt especially the pyramids," Sharif said. "Omar Sharif pour femme" ranges between Eau de Toilette, Parfum de Toilette and Parfum de Toilette Concentre.

Picture shows Omar Sharif (centre) at the promotion.

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BAHRAIN DIGEST

Bahraini lads leaning towards Filipina ladies

IN RECENT times there has been a considerable increase in the formation of personal relationships between single young Bahraini men and Filipina females in the island for a number of sociological, cultural and economic factors.

The first Filipino workers here were domestics or housemaids. These workers still represent a substantial number of Filipino expatriate "contract workers" in Bahrain. The bulk of Filipino workers comprise of housemaids and salesgirls. A fair number of Filipinos who initially came here as domestics are later seen to transfer their sponsorship and work in the retail outlets.

While it is difficult to ascertain exact figures a brief survey by the Arab Times revealed that most Filipino workers here are married with an average of two children back home. While generally a Filipina worker is contracted to go back home on leave after two years of service, there appears to be an increasing number of Filipinos who can only return home after 4 or 5 years, usually because of financial restraints, change of employment or even in some cases unemployment.

This trend causes a large number of Filipino workers to suffer homesickness, loneliness and other forms of psychological and emotional problems. Married females particularly find it hard going. Not surprisingly increasing number of Filipinos, both married and single, tend to socialise with young local men to forget their misery and to have a "good time". Moral and cultural factors notwithstanding, Filipinos appear to be totally uninhibited when it comes to the concept of "open relationship" with national boys.

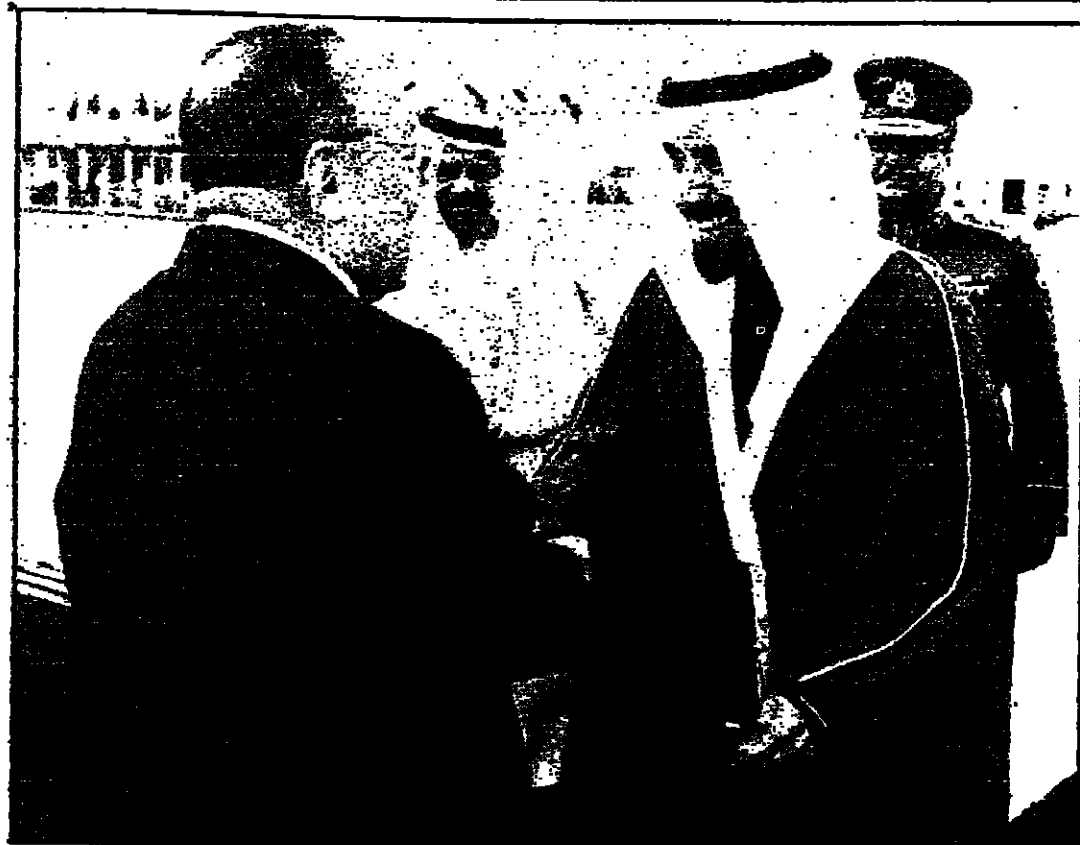
While it is true that a large number of these girls have no ulterior motives but just to have some "fun" with nationals, others look at these relationships as a means of economic security in an affluent society of a foreign country. Ironically some of these youthful flings end up in marriage for better or worse.

It must be explained that most Filipino workers in Bahrain are products of low-income or poor families from economical backward provinces in the Philippines. After grinding their way to Manilla, their hopes and dreams of a prosperous future grow as they make their way to work in Bahrain and other Gulf states. The temptation to forge a relationship with local men appears greater for the island's Filipinos with broken homes and marriages. The ones with children and elderly parents and relations to support, without a husband, find this prospect a last resort to economic security, thereby brighter future.

Today's generation of young Bahraini men are well educated, holding high level jobs with good income. Aided by a secure job and relatively affluent lifestyles these men are adopting an increasingly independent stance of living. Having been influenced by a host of Western trends and norms Bahraini's single young men are increasingly seen socialising with foreign girls. It seems Filipinos make ideal "girlfriends" as they are less "demanding" and are endowed with a free-spirit and a sense of joie de vivre when it comes to romantic relationships.

CP 11/10/150

هكذا امت الأصل



His Highness the Amir bids farewell to Chinese President Yang Shangkun at the airport.

Kuwait and China sign economic protocols

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheikh Ali, is currently carrying out exploration work in China.

On the political front, the talks between HH the Amir and Yang covered international developments.

A Kuwaiti official said the emphasis was on efforts to break the deadlock in peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq and settle the Palestine and Lebanese crises.

"An atmosphere of understanding and friendship prevailed during the talks," he said.

Yang blamed unidentified foreign forces and shortcomings on the part of East European governments for recent turmoil there and ruled out the socialist countries turning immediately to capitalism.

"There are foreign forces which masterminded and prompted the downfall of regimes in East European countries, exploiting their people's economic sufferings," Yang told Kuwaiti editors at the end of his visit. "However some regimes have behaved against the aspira-

tions of their peoples, thus pushing them to change."

"We are following up with extreme concern what is taking place in East Europe," Yang said. "The changes there are prompted by internal and external reasons."

He stressed Beijing considers the developments in these countries as an internal affair "and is keen on retaining friendly relations with them and will respect their people's choices."

The Chinese leader predicted that "the situation in some East European countries will not

stabilise. There will be new changes but it is difficult to guess their trend."

He expressed the view that it was "difficult for these regimes to convert directly to capitalism, as such transfer will trigger conflicts between advocates of the two systems."

Asked about developments within China, he said that despite the June "anti-revolution rebellion" in China the situation there was stable and the Chinese people were "doing their utmost to foster solidarity and raise the living standard."

Yang hailed Kuwait's peaceful foreign policy and its efforts to boost Arab solidarity and maintain the Gulf region's peace and stability.

Yang further praised Kuwait's support of the Palestinian people's just struggle and of economic development and technical co-operation among the Third World countries.

Yang described talks with the Amir and senior Kuwaiti officials as beneficial and fruitful.

He praised Kuwait's neutral and non-aligned foreign policy.

KD100 fine likely soon

Failure to intimate change of address

FAILURE to inform the Public Authority for Civil Information on the change of address is likely to cost money soon. A senior official at PACI said yesterday that the Authority is currently studying to include a clause in the Civil Information law allowing the Authority to impose a KD100 fine on persons who change their residence and fail to inform the Authority.

Deputy-Director General of PACI Mubashir Al Muhaiter said that the penalty is likely to be imposed by the early next year. However, he disclosed that the amount can be reduced to KD20 if a compromise is made within 15 days after issuing the offence ticket. It is learnt that the issue is with the Council of Ministers and if approved will be publicly announced by the Director-General of PACI.

Four men have been arrested by a Jahra police patrol following a long chase beginning in Jahra and ending in Firdous.

Residents in Jahra had reported an annoying case of reckless driving in their neighbourhood. A police patrol was rushed to the location and chased the suspects and arrested them in Firdous to discover that all the four were inebriated.

The suspects were referred to the competent authorities for different charges of public nuisances, reckless and drunken driving, and failure to obey police orders.



Sheikh Salem in Jahra

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday visited the Jahra Governorate where he inspected the new building of the governorate. He was received by Jahra Governor, Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al Sabah, Chairman of the Jahra Governorate Council, Fahad Al Hajrat and other senior officials. In the picture above Sheikh Ali is presenting a gift to the interior minister.

Arabs respect people's will

Barges denounces rumours

PRESIDENT of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana), Barges Hmoud Al Barges, yesterday strongly denounced Zionist-inspired allegations that Arab forces fought alongside the Ceausescu loyalists against the popular uprising in Romania last week.

Al Barges particularly deplored the fact that the unfounded rumours were echoed Monday by the Hungarian government-controlled television.

When the anti-Ceausescu uprising broke out last week press reports alleged that forces from Syria, Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organisation were backing Romanian troops loyal to the late president Nicolae Ceausescu.

Syria, Libya and the PLO were quick to categorically deny the rumours which were also dismissed as unfounded by several East-European officials.

The Fana president appealed to the international media to be more scrupulously accurate and not to be misled by "malicious rumours" leaked by diplomats sympathetic to Zionism.

Such allegations, Al Barges stressed, were designed merely to jeopardise the good ties between Europe and the Arab world.

He emphasised that Arabs respect the will of peoples and are staunch advocates of human rights in all parts of the world.

"Arab countries flatly reject

any attempt to smear them, especially untruthful allegations floated by the Zionist-infested media," he said.

The Fana president bitterly criticised the Anti-Arab allegations and made it a point to remind the Eastern European media, particularly in Hungary, of expression of support for the Romanian National Salvation Front from Arab groups.

He referred to the cable of support sent to the front jointly by Arab student unions in Romania on behalf of the Arab community in that Eastern European country.

The cable said: "We stand by the friendly Romanian people in its struggle for freedom and democracy and reject the ill-intentioned reports which sought to undermine the Arab-Romanian friendship."

Al Barges also cited a similar cable from the Palestinian Student Union in Bucharest which expressed wholehearted support for the new leadership in Romania and urged Palestinian medical students and doctors to volunteer work in Bucharest hospitals.

Al Barges linked the anti-Arab rumours to "Israel and those behind it" who are trying to deal a blow to, and divert world attention from the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation forces in the West Bank and Gaza.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri audience

HIS Highness the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

Premier meetings

HIS Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received at his diwan in Bayan Palace yesterday member of Central Committee of Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fath) Om Jihad on the occasion of her visit to Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Awni Battash.

The Crown Prince also received Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan accompanied by director-general of the Public Authority for Housing Dr Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen, director of design department Eng. Yousef Abdurrahman, director of planning department Eng. Abdullah Haider, director of documentation and distribution department Ali Matar, and chief of programmes department Shikha Al Arfa' who presented to HH the plaque of housing week.

The Crown Prince also received advisor at the Amiri office Mohammad Sulaiman Sayed Ali, board chairman and director-general of Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij, and Governor of Kuwait Central Bank Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Saud.

King Fahd

THE Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency said King Fahd left for Riyadh after talks with Sheikh Isa on "warm brotherly relations" between the two countries, developments in Gulf and Arab arenas, GCC issues and other topics of mutual interest.

It did not say whether King Fahd was accompanied by the rest of his delegation.

Velayati note

UNITED Arab Emirates Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayid Al Nahayyan received a message last night from Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message, which dealt with the current developments in the Gulf region and means of enhancing peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement Security Council Resolution 598, was delivered by Iranian Ambassador to UAE Mohammed Ali Hadi.

Amman seminar

AMBASSADOR of Kuwait in Jordan Saleem Al Fasm will participate today in an important seminar under the title "The Role of the Security Council in International Issues."



Graduation ceremony

The Technology Programmes Design Training Course was concluded yesterday at Kuwait Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. The graduation ceremony was attended by the Acting Director-General of the authority Humoud Al Mudhaf and a number of senior officials at the authority. The course was attended by 12 trainees and included several lectures and practical trainings. The picture above Al Mudhaf giving away the certificates to the trainees.

Maid runs away with \$3m jewels

A LADY from a Gulf country was the victim of a \$3 million jewellery robbery in London recently.

A local daily reported that the lady's Filipina maid and her husband managed to steal the valuables that the lady had received as gifts from wives of a number of world leaders during the past 20 years. The stolen items included a number of necklaces, bracelets, studded with diamonds and other gems. It is learnt that the two servants managed to hide the jewels inside their personal bags when they boarded the private plane of the lady with her to London where she stays in a spacious palace.

The culprits had stolen the jewels just prior to their departure to London and left for an undisclosed destination.

The lady immediately informed Interpol. An investigation to trace the culprits are underway.

A Kuwaiti family who went to the airport to receive the dead body of one of their relatives had a "surprise of their lives" to see him deplaning from the stairs of the aircraft.

According to a local daily, the man had left a few days ago for Thailand on a business trip. Meanwhile, the family was told on the phone that he had expired and his body was being sent home.

Immediately, the family published an obituary in a local Arabic daily and later contacted radio and TV stations who also announced the death.

The man it is reported arrived home while condolence calls kept on arriving.

Detectives of Ahmadi Governorate apprehended three Kuwaitis identified as Saad S. Jaber M. and Abdul Latif S. who have been accused of stealing some desert camping equipment, the Public Relations Department of the governorate reported.

The accused are alleged to have stolen generators, tents and some other supplies from the Seventh Ring Road, Mina Abdullah and Sabhan areas.

Investigations revealed that the stolen articles were hidden in the house of one of their friend identified as Saleh A.

The culprits and the stolen articles have been referred to authorities for further investigation.



555

Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

YOU must be poor to know the luxury of giving —
George Eliot, English novelist (1819-1880).

Israel awaits fruits of perestroika

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuter): Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika, which has already changed the face of Europe, may soon transform the character of Israel through a mass exodus of Soviet Jews.

Israelis anxiously await a wave of up to 300,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants over the next three years. More than 2,000 arrived in November — the same number as in the whole of 1988.

The influx could have a huge impact on the demography and politics of Israel and the occupied territories. Israel's population is only four million, including 650,000 Arabs.

"There is no question that hundreds of thousands will arrive," Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month. "The number of Jews who will want to leave the Soviet Union will soon reach 1,000,000."

Former Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky said Israel was witnessing the biggest exodus of Jews since the inquisition exiled them from Spain in 1492.

Immigration

Government officials say the monthly immigration figure could double early next year when direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv begin.

Faced by anti-Semitism and a deteriorating economy, Soviet Jews are taking advantage of the Kremlin's most liberal immigration policies since the early 1970s to leave in increasing numbers.

"It is a very hard life in the Soviet Union for everyone, but for Jews especially," said Zenovy Niesenbaum, an electrical engineer from Odessa.

Igor Petrov, a 33-year-old Russian physicist, came to Israel with his Jewish wife to escape the hardships of the Soviet Union but will try to emigrate to the United States.

"This is the only country I can come to. It is impossible to live in the Soviet Union now. Soviet society is seriously ill and in the future it will become more dangerous," Petrov said.

Until October the vast majority of Soviet Jews headed for the United States in search of a more peaceful and prosperous life. But new US quotas limit the number allowed entry to 40,000 per year, leaving them no choice but Israel.

Uprising

Housing Minister David Levy has proposed settling the Soviet immigrants among the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied territories who have been waging an uprising for two years.

Hardline Israeli leaders have contended Israel could keep the territories it won in the 1967 Middle East war with a wave of Jewish immigration that would balance the Arab population.

"It goes without saying that if you add half a million Jews who are not expected from the normal birth rate, it has an enormous demographic impact," said a senior official with the quasi-governmental Jewish agency who declined to be named.

Palestinians are concerned Israel will move Soviet Jews into the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Government officials say the immigrants are free to settle where they like.

Most Soviet Jews become hardline nationalists on arrival in the Jewish state. This could push a right-leaning electorate even further toward tougher stances on territorial concessions.

Impact

Soviet Jews, mostly highly-educated professionals, are also expected to have an impact on Israel's economy and culture.

Arriving mainly on flights from Budapest and Bucharest, the newcomers are greeted at Tel Aviv airport by Israelis dancing the Jewish hora and singing Hebrew songs such as the "People of Israel Live."

"We are so touched by the warm hospitality because we know only queues," said one immigrant. Soviet children laugh and join the festivities, propped on the shoulders of Israeli dancers.

"Russian Judaism was detached from world Jewry for 70 years by an iron curtain," Immigration Minister Yitzhak Peretz told a group of new immigrants at Tel Aviv airport.

"Today we see that through a miracle the iron curtain is crumbling... and the Jews of Russia are coming to the land of Israel," he said. "The people of Israel are waiting for you with a lot of love and expectation."

Bouquets

Government workers hand out bouquets and distribute food and refreshments while the jet-lagged newcomers wait up to seven hours for processing of immigration papers.

Officials of the Jewish agency expect a bureaucratic nightmare as the number coming to Israel rises but say no one will be turned away. They predict up to 300,000 arrivals over the next three years.

Rejecting criticism that the country is ill-prepared for the mass immigration, Peretz insisted there would be enough housing but conceded more jobs would have to be found.

In November a government committee formulated a \$2 billion plan to absorb 100,000 Jews over the next three years but officials say it must already be revised.

The money is to pay for building 25,000 new apartments and renovating 5,000 others, job training and creating new employment, education and infrastructure.

The government pays the immigrants' rent, provides a monthly allowance and Hebrew lessons and helps them find work.

"We won't make any quotas and we will absorb every Jew," said Jewish Agency spokesman Gad Ben-Ari. "It will be a mess but we will make it."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1703 — Britain and Portugal sign Methuen Treaty.

1741 — Prussian forces take Olmutz, Czechoslovakia; Spanish troops land in Tuscany, Italy.

1794 — French troops invade Holland.

1927 — Joseph Stalin's faction wins at all-union congress in Soviet Union, and Leon Trotsky is expelled from Communist Party.

1944 — In World War II, Soviet forces surround Budapest; US forces smash across German bulge in Belgium and relieve US troops under siege at Bastogne.

1945 — Foreign ministers of Britain, United States and Soviet Union, meeting in Moscow, call for provisional democratic government in Korea.

1948 — Cardinal Mindszenty is arrested in Hungary.

1949 — The Netherlands' Queen Juliana signs document granting Indonesia sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

1956 — United Nations fleet begins clearing Suez Canal after Suez war.

1964 — Congo government charges that officers from Algeria and United Arab Republic are leading Congolese rebels on Congo's northeastern border.

1969 — Libya, Sudan and United Arab Republic announce political, economic and military agreement in Tripoli.

1972 — Australia halts military aid to South Vietnam, ending its involvement in Vietnam war.

1975 — China releases Soviet helicopter that flew into Chinese territory.

1976 — China releases Soviet helicopter that flew into Chinese territory.

1976 — At least 20 people die in fight between two groups of blacks in Cape Town, South Africa.

1985 — Terrorists strike at holiday travellers in simultaneous attacks on Israel's El Al airline at Rome and Vienna airports, killing 16 people and wounding about 110.

1987 — Ferocious gun battle erupts in crowded market in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, after suspected Tamil rebels fatally shoot policeman, and at least 25 people are reported killed.

1988 — Police impose curfews in 23 towns throughout India's southern Andhra Pradesh state following mob violence.



Young Czechs wave the national flag at the rally on Wenceslas Square on Dec 14. The banner in the background voices support of the polytechnics students to dissident Vaclav Havel as president. (Reuter wirephoto)

Emigres' dreams come true

Bittersweet moments in E. Europe

LONDON, (Reuter): One November weekend, a British television reporter interviewed Czechoslovak dissident emigre Jan Kavan in front of a seething, chanting crowd in Prague's Wenceslas Square. They both smiled at the irony of the moment.

A week earlier Kavan, a student leader during the 1968 "Prague Spring" of reforms, would have been slammed into jail just for setting foot in the country.

The reporter had often visited him in London for information about opposition in the East bloc. Neither of them expected to meet in such changed circumstances.

Developments in East Europe have thrown up many unexpected, bittersweet moments like this.

Emigres have worked for years in a strange, sometimes hostile, world to keep human rights on the agenda. What will they do now their dreams are coming true? Will they return, dislocating their lives once more, or do they feel they still have a job to do abroad?

The question highlights a dilemma faced by such activists, as illustrated by the accounts of several people interviewed by Reuters.

Kavan, 43, was caught in the West when Soviet tanks rolled into Prague 21 years ago. Friends at home advised him to stay and help them from the outside. This led to the creation of Palach Press and the East European Cultural Foundation, which fostered links between East bloc dissident movements.

When he walked through the Magic Lantern theatre in Prague, where last month's revolt took

shape, Kavan recognised many faces from the photographs of dissidents whose harassment he had publicised.

Like many emigres Kavan faces complications about national status and says he will now ask for reinstatement of his Czechoslovak citizenship, withdrawn in 1977. When he returned in November he was stopped and interviewed at the airport.

He hopes to return permanently "one day" but still sees a role in the West producing a comparative forum for debate.

"The changes will throw up important issues which haven't been discussed for a long time... there's not going to be unity, within East bloc countries or between them."

Gyorgy Krasso, a dissident activist and participant in Hungary's 1956 uprising, gained permission to leave his country in 1985 after the death of a relative. Soon afterwards he started the Hungarian October information service in London.

Like many emigres Krasso returned to Budapest in June for the reburial of communist leader Imre Nagy, hanged for backing the 1956 revolt, whose rehabilitation marked a turning point in Hungary's reform process.

Krasso had to relinquish his British refugee status to return to Budapest and fight for a new, unrestricted, Hungarian passport. He is currently hopping between his young family in London and Budapest, where he recently ran in a by-election for the small Hungarian October Party.

The group is unpopular with both the ruling ex-communists and the main opposition groups, of whom he is equally critical.

"When I first returned I felt touched — I thought I would not see my country again. But it was only a few hours before I felt completely at home," said Krasso, 57, in a telephone interview from Budapest.

"When I left it was not possible to conduct politics and I felt I could help spread information from outside. But now I am only politically valid if I am in Hungary."

Polish emigre Marek Garztecki was stranded in London during an official visit for the independent Solidarity trade union movement after martial law was imposed in 1981. His job as a jazz journalist, family and home were all cut off from him.

Along with other activist emigres he decided it was his duty to remain a spokesman for the movement when it was forced underground. But he often faced hostility or indifference, with some groups accusing Solidarity of being inspired by the US Central Intelligence Agency and others pronouncing it a lost cause, he said.

Garztecki, 42, went back to Poland in November for the first time and hopes to commute between his old and new home. He feels less sure of finding recognition of his work back home than others such as Kavan, however, and feels a gap in shared experience with those who lived through martial law.

East Germans go west

Bleak life now even harder

RUEDNITZ, East Germany, (AP): In the village of Ruednitz outside Berlin, town hall repairman Frieder Krueghof was the only one around to tell local citizens to come back another day.

The Mayor of Leipzig said only 115 of 8,000 workers who fled to West Germany this summer have returned to East Germany's second-largest city.

Annette Liebetreu kicked up her heels for a night of disco dancing just over the border in West Germany, but burst into tears when she couldn't get a taxi to take her home later. Too many drivers had gone to the West permanently.

Many parts of daily life in East Germany continue as normal, just as they did before the upheaval that started with the ouster of communist leader Erich Honecker on Oct 18.

More than 35,000 spectators packed the Ernst Thaelmann sports stadium on Dec 7, in Karl-Marx Stadt for a UEFA cup match.

Performances of Christmas tales for children at East Berlin's palace of culture are a big hit.

A German advent wouldn't be complete without outdoor Christmas markets, and this year's packed outdoor fairs under twinkling lights are no exception.

But an Associated Press reporter who recently travelled about 1,100 kilometres (685 miles) through East German towns and cities found that new pres-

sures have emerged even as life goes ahead. The towns and cities visited ranged from East Berlin with its 1.2 million people to Ruednitz with just 700.

Overall, the political turmoil and exodus of nearly 320,000 people this year alone were the No. 1 topics of conversation.

"There isn't even anybody to do the books," Ruednitz repairman Krueghof said, as he leaned on his shovel at the entrance to the crumbling building. "We could use a whole wagon of Russians and Chinese to work here."

He apologised that the mayor was at a meeting for officials on the impact of East Germany's recent political changes, and the deputy mayor had bolted when accused of working for the hated secret police. The town hall secretary had just quit.

The exodus of people to the West has hit small towns especially hard, making bakers, doctors, opticians and others a rarity in many places. Adding to the problems in big cities is a lack of manpower to run the factories.

Guenther Haedrich, the mayor of Leipzig, 150 km (93 miles) south of East Berlin, this week warned that the human drain threatened the city with economic collapse.

Some 600 soldiers have been driving buses and picking up garbage there since November.

After years of describing East Germany as a workers' paradise, the government officially has

conceded that its version of socialism has failed to secure a decent standard of living.

In a speech Dec 9, Prime Minister Hans Modrow admitted that only one region had met its monthly target for construction of apartments in November.

Modrow also said industrial productivity was at its lowest level this year in November and that 51 factories had failed to meet production targets.

Some 1,500 doctors have left East Germany last five years.

The poor condition of public services was all too clear to Ms. Liebetreu, an office worker from the village of Breitenstein, 250 kms (154 miles) south-west of East Berlin.

Ms. Liebetreu, 23, couldn't resist the temptation of going to a West German disco on a Friday night and left her baby home with her mother in the village.

When the disco closed she hitchhiked back to Nordhausen, an East German city of 40,000 just south of her village, where there was only one taxi and not a bus in sight.

There in her eyes, she pleaded with the taxi driver to take her home, but he said he was too busy helping work the shifts of three drivers and several bus drivers who left Nordhausen for West Germany.

"Not much has changed. You can state your opinions freely," she said choking with anger. "Nothing else is different."

Turmoil affects East German spies

BONN, West Germany, (AP): East Germany's foreign espionage network, one of the world's most effective for 40 years, is still in operation but many operatives are lying low, experts say.

"It's clear they (East German agents) are still here, but they're sleeping, waiting to see what will happen next," said Guenther Buch, a noted West German government expert on East German affairs.

Specialists say the government turmoil and democratic reforms in East Germany appear to be hindering espionage operations by some East German agents. Other agents may defect to the West, they say, rather than remain loyal to an East German security apparatus that is being increasingly reviled at home.

East German spies have long been known for their effectiveness, especially in penetrating government and military activities in West Germany. Their operations have ranged from placing an agent who eventually brought down West German Chancellor Willy Brandt to assigning operatives to simply relay information from West German telephone books.

"There seems to be restraints (in agents' activities) right now, but it cannot be said they're doing nothing," said one West German intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The two Germanys were reportedly this week to be embarking on an exchange of as many as 25 imprisoned spies. West Germany on Thursday confirmed it will free two top communist agents from

prison.

Yet there is no sign that East Germany's new leaders have shut down their nation's foreign intelligence network.

"We are certain that its agents are still active," said Hans-Gert Lange, spokesman for West Germany's counter-intelligence agency, the constitutional protection office.

One top West German security official, speaking on condition of strict anonymity, told the Associated Press that short-wave radio broadcasts from East Germany to West Germany are one proof of that.

According to the officials, intelligence officials inside East Germany have been sending coded messages to the West for years, using number series that are uncodable by agents operating in West Germany.

Those transmissions are continuing daily, he said. "The fact is, they're still transmitting, and that means they're still at work."

Western intelligence officials decline to disclose what exactly they know about their opponents' espionage operation.

But Buch said East Germany's spies are likely to tread carefully in their work because of uncertainty about developments in their homeland and greater risks they can be found out.

"Agents' activities are naturally at this time limited by the events, and as long as the country is unstable espionage won't be practiced in the same measure as before," he told the AP in a telephone

conversation from his office in West Berlin.

Gerhard Boden, head of the constitutional protection office, said at least 10 people who had intelligence jobs in East Germany have defected to West Germany. They may have information about spies working in West Germany, he indicated.

Buch said East German agents could be affected by the outpouring of public anger in East Germany against the former Ministry for State Security (MSS), which conducted domestic secret police operation as well as foreign intelligence. Intelligence operations are now being reorganized.

"It could be they (foreign agents) fear they could be threatened" if they decided to return home, he said.

Past estimates have said up to 3,000 communist agents are at work in West Germany — most of them from East Germany.

But while there's general acknowledgment in West Germany that East Germany's spies have not left en masse, there is serious disagreement about the seriousness of the threat.

Willfried Penner, a security specialist for the opposition Social Democratic Party, says with East-West divisions falling as fast as they are, soon there may be few secrets to be obtained.

"Certainly the desire to get secrets will remain," says Penner. "But because there are fewer military secrets, and because the military threat is lessening, there aren't that many reasons to spy anymore."

Letters to the editor

Blessings of mess

SIR: Recently I had the opportunity to visit a 'mess' and taste their food, which was very tasty like home-made food.

A week later I heard that authorities raided the place and took away all utensils and put the 'proprietors' under arrest.

While appreciating the authorities' action against such 'illegal' act, it may be noted that this type of eating place is a blessing for the ordinary expatriate who can get average food at a very competitive rate, compared to the licensed restaurants, which charge high prices and supply low quality food.

I wonder why these restaurants' charges are so high, in a place like Kuwait, where foodstuff is made available at a low rate. One reason may be the rent, but that does not justify it altogether.

It is beyond the capacity of an ordinary worker who, being underpaid and without cooking facilities depends on restaurants.

So, why don't the authorities show a more affable approach and think of issuing licences to these messes, on the basis of clearly drawn-out standards/requirements, which will be definitely a blessing for many expatriates.

Johnny Kunnat
Rabat

Worst Indian award

SIR: Everybody liked NRI forum giving "Best NRI" award to Dr Jacob Oommen, who fully deserves it.

Now, NRI forum should consider giving another award to a "Worst Indian" of the year. For which, may I suggest any of the following?

1. The NRI who sang "Jana gana mana Kya hai" publicly?

2. The "visa famous" NRI, who made thousands of R.I. (resident Indians) into NRI, through his visa racket. This NRI now lives in his marble mansion in India.

3. The NRI "Gulf leader" who made a fortune out of the death and visit of every Congress leader through door-to-door collection of funds and whose very sight makes doctors shiver in Farwana/Abbasia area?

4. Or anyone suitably selected by NRI Forum?

Surely, this award too, will be won by a Malayalee??

K.K. Velamuri
Rabat

A reminder

SIR: This letter is a reminder to the New Goan Overseas Association or anyone who plans to bring Goan actors Rammie Colaco or C. Alvares to Kuwait that March falls in the season of Lent.

The suggestion that the Goan dramatist M. Boyer should have had his recent drama on another day would be financially disastrous. The following Thursday Boyer and his troupe had to be in another Gulf state.

It was very thoughtful of NGOA to remember the religious observance of the Christians in the Gulf States.

Some minds drum with figures making it impossible to discern the ones on calendar from profit accounts.

Christo Aida,
Kuwait

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"They are all envious of our society and they spread poison to satisfy their desires and their subversive inclinations. I am sorry to say that all workers in (the human rights) field on the local and international level are not up to the required standard. They consider human rights to be the rights of the criminal only and they don't try to tap the rights of those against whom the crimes are committed."

— Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr, labelling the world's human rights activists as subversives.

"How can the Iranian nation, which made one of the most vigorous revolutions against an armed-to-the-teeth dictator, not share the sentiment of the Romanian people, standing up to an autocratic rule?" The Tehran Times on Ceausescu's overthrow.

"The party's aim is to establish and sustain a socialist society guided by Marxist-Leninist principles but firmly based on our historical, cultural and social experience and to create conditions for economic independence, increased productivity and equitable distribution of the wealth of the nation." — The Zimbabwean constitution.

"I feel I'm just a tunnel, a tube through which they come. I mean, 'Billie Jean' and 'Beat It' and all those songs have been up there somewhere and just came through to me. So even if I did it, I just can't always take credit." — Michael Jackson being modest on his accomplishments.

"We declare that we are in the service of the Romanian people, in defence of its national interests, for the country's freedom, for national independence and the territorial integrity of our state." — Romanian embassy in Beijing pledging its support for the reform forces.

"I am not here today to claim a right on behalf of the United States to enforce the will of history by intervening in favour of democracy where we are not wanted. We are supporters of democracy, but not the gendarmes of democracy, not in this hemisphere or anywhere else. We acted in Panama for legitimate reasons of self-defence and to protect the integrity of the Canal treaty." — US Ambassador to the UN, Thomas R. Pickering to the Security Council.

"My mom always asked when I'd get a real job, and I think that time has come. My goal now is to be a great dad, more than being a great receiver or football player. That's what I've always prayed about and that will be the measure I'll hold to my own life." — Steve Largent American football great who is retiring.

"We must protect Egypt against this damn disease which in reality is more dangerous than AIDS and all forms of cancer that affect man as the computer virus ruins the yields of entire nations when these diseases only kill individuals." — An Egyptian newspaper after an Egyptian bank caught a computer virus.

"God sides with those whom the world despises. God is with those whom the world brutalises. God is with those whom the world oppresses." — Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"We didn't even know we were coming here. They told us we were going to another part of the United States for training. Then we got here, they handed us live ammunition. ... A US soldier on their military adventure into Panama."

'I HAVE SO MUCH I WANT TO SAY'

Romania



Ceausescu is seen on footage released by Romanian Television. (Reuter wirephoto)



Elena Ceausescu is seen on footage released by Romanian Television. (Reuter wirephoto)

Isolation ends Free to speak

BUCHAREST, Dec 26, (Reuter): Romanians relish the chance for free speech after 24 years under the grip of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, ousted and executed in a popular revolution.

"Don't go away, I want to talk. We have not been allowed to speak to foreigners for 24 years and I have so much to say," one middle-aged Bucharest citizen said today.

Ceausescu's regime instilled such paranoia that few Romanians dared to contact foreigners, fearing for their careers and personal safety.

"We all knew the foreigners were being monitored all the time and that talking to them was very dangerous," said another Bucharest resident who stopped me on the street.

A government soldier tugged at my sleeve as I turned to leave after a brief conversation.

"Don't go, you don't realise what it's like not to have spoken to the outside world for so many years," he said.

Romanians have mixed anxiety and joy since Friday when the 71-year-old leader was overthrown by unprecedented protests.

Although Romanians are delighted to see Westerners, reports that Arabs have been discovered among Ceausescu's Securitate secret police — which fought bitterly against the revolution — have caused foreigners to be regarded with some suspicion.

The director of Bucharest's largest emergency hospital has said two Libyans were among the captured Securitate fighters.

But new president Ion Iliescu refused to confirm the reports in an interview with the French daily Le Monde.

Suspicion of foreigners has been most apparent on the Bucharest metro, where students are enforcing strict security to prevent attacks by forces loyal to Ceausescu.

Foreigners, including Europeans and Americans, were at first welcomed by students but are now stopped and interrogated.

One Reuter correspondent was threatened at gunpoint today by a soldier.

Ordinary Romanians are almost overwhelmed by their newly-found freedom to talk openly.

Asked about the bugging and monitoring of visitors to Romania under Ceausescu, an employee of Bucharest's Inter-Continental Hotel at first was shocked and looked around nervously.

But confidence is acquired quickly during a revolution and she recounted how employees of the state telephone company visited her house every two weeks to "inspect" her phone because she had a brother living in the West.

Young vigilantes

'Dracula is dead'

BUCHAREST, Dec 26, (Reuter): "Romania este libera", Romania is free, exclaimed Bucharest student Magda Iancu, draping me in a Romanian flag, my head through the hole where the communist emblem had been cut away.

"I want you to have this as a souvenir of our newly-born freedom," she cried, her arms raised in victory sign as she stood guard at one of the city's many street checkpoints, mounted to protect residents against the secret police.

Thousands of young Romanians like her have turned vigilantes across the country in the past 10 days to help in the struggle for freedom and democracy in their long-oppressed country.

"We are the people's militia, the opposite to Ceausescu's Securitate," said 12-year-old Doina, one of scores of youngsters searching passengers and vehicles at Bucharest's University Square.

Cries of "victory" and "dracula is dead" — a reference to yesterday's execution of deposed Stalinist leader Nicolae Ceausescu — could be heard at various points throughout the city.

As trucks drove by distributing newspapers which have mushroomed since Ceausescu's overthrow last week, people stumbled over each other in a rush to grab their free copy.

One soldier in a khaki greatcoat swept away empty cartridges and broken glass, replacing his gun with a broom in a sure sign that things were looking up.

Sun broke through the clouds and spring seemed to greet people decorating tanks with bouquets of flowers.

"This is a true Romanian spring," said 17-year-old Neicu Mihna at a checkpoint in Republic Square, scene of fierce battles between the army and remnants of Ceausescu's hated Securitate.



Ceausescu and Elena during a visit to New York in 1978. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Death for genocide and crimes against country'

BUCHAREST, Romania, (AP): Text of the announcement of the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, as broadcast by Bucharest Radio and translated by the Associated Press:

On Dec. 25, 1989, the trial of Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu was held before an extraordinary military tribunal. The charges were:

1. Genocide. More than 60,000 victims.
2. Undermining of the state power through organization of armed actions against the people and the state power.
3. Destruction of public property through destruction and damaging of buildings and numerous explosions in cities, etc.
4. The undermining of the national economy.
5. The attempt to flee the country by taking advantage of more than \$1 billion deposited in foreign banks.

For these crimes against the Romanian people and Romania, the culprits Nicolae Ceausescu and Elena Ceausescu were condemned to death and the confiscation of their wealth.

The sentence was definitive and was carried out.



Ceausescu and Elena on footage released by Romanian Television. (Reuter wirephoto)

Guards at border crossing desert their posts to watch on TV Ceausescu's death

STAMORA-MORAVITA, Romania, Dec 26, (Reuter): Guards at this border crossing all deserted their posts when Romanian Television said it was about to show pictures of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena were shot by firing squad yesterday after a military trial found them guilty of genocide in a popular revolt against their despotic rule.

Many still clutching machine guns, the guards rushed to a television set in a nearby office at the crossing point, 70 km (45 miles) from Timisoara where the revolt began. Within 30 seconds, over 50 people were gathered around the set.

They were like children at a party. They had been waiting all night for proof that the tyrant was really dead.

"Hey journalist, come sit here," said a woman

Together till the end

With perfumed lover

How Nicu nabbed

BUCHAREST, Dec 26, (Reuter): Deposed Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were jointly executed by a firing squad after she said they wanted to die together without mercy, a National Salvation Front member said today.

Romanian television showed a picture of the body of Ceausescu today, a day after their execution was announced.

The Ceausescus were captured on Friday in a car some 100 km (60 miles) from Bucharest, after attempting to flee in a helicopter that was forced to land, said Captain Mihai Lupoi, a member of the Front which has acted as an interim government.

The television showed two clothed bodies lying in front of a bullet-scattered brick wall. One of them was Ceausescu's and the other possibly that of his wife Elena.

The camera showed a close-up of the face of the late dictator, blood oozing from an apparent head wound.

The television did not show a close-up of Elena, but said she had also been executed.

"We want to die together, we do not want mercy," Lupoi quoted Elena as saying before she was led out with her husband to be shot.

The execution was carried out at 4 pm (1400 GMT) by a three-man firing squad after a two-hour trial by military tribunal yesterday.

Lupoi told journalists inside the Communist Party Central Committee headquarters that he saw full videotapes of the trial and execution.

As the couple were led out to the execution by the soldiers, Elena said to them: "I was like a mother to you," Lupoi said.

"What sort of a mother were you, who killed our mothers?" one soldier replied.

Lupoi said the trial and execution took place in a secret military installation whose location would never be revealed for fear of sabotage by remnants of Ceausescu's dreaded Securitate secret police.

The broadcast finally confirmed last night's announcement of Ceausescu's execution and ended an agonising wait for Romanians eager to know the fate of their hated former leader.

The television film showed the couple being taken out of an armoured car and a doctor examining Ceausescu.

It then showed a lengthy scene of the two sitting in a room, possibly during their trial by the military tribunal which condemned them to death.

The television announcer said: "The sentence was legal and they were both executed."

Lupoi said the Ceausescus had refused to collaborate with the tribunal, saying it had no authority

BUDAPEST, Dec 26, (Reuter): A Romanian printer told today how he recognised and arrested Nicu Ceausescu, the son of deposed leader Nicolae, as he tried to flee in a car driven by a heavily-perfumed woman.

Ivan Maru told the Hungarian socialist daily Nepszabadsag he overpowered Nicu and then took him to the television centre, where the notorious playboy appeared on camera looking dazed and bruised.

Maru said he had been checking cars near Bucharest's Baneasa domestic airport on Friday with a group of vigilantes.

"I saw a metallic-coloured Olcit (Romanian-made car) approaching. We forced it to slow down and stop. Four of us surrounded it and one of my buddies told the driver to identify herself," Maru told the paper.

Maru said he noticed the car's registration number started with 4B, which he had heard meant it belonged to the pro-Ceausescu Securitate secret police. "I immediately told my buddies 'strict control, boys,'" he said.

A very elegant woman was driving the car. The scent of fine perfume poured out of the car when she pulled down the window. Her papers were in order, but we saw that a man was sitting behind, his cap completely pulled down. We could barely see his face.

Maru said they asked her who he was and she replied: "He is my lover."

"I reached in and pulled off his cap. I saw it was Nicu. He got out of the car and pretended to search for his papers. Then suddenly he ran away. I ran after him and jumped on him. I twisted his arm behind his back. My buddies got there too and helped."

Maru said he radioed for an army car to take Nicu, despised party leader in the city of Sibiu, to the television headquarters.

"He was escorted from the studio to jail where he now awaits his trial in front of the people's tribunal," Maru said.

Nicu's parents, who were also seized on Friday, were executed by firing squad yesterday after a secret trial.

over them, and had demanded to be tried by the grand National Assembly (Parliament) as the members of the tribunal were only ordinary citizens.

"You can shoot us if you like but we do not recognise you as a court," Nicolae Ceausescu, 71, had said in his final hours.

Lupoi said the couple had each been offered a defence lawyer but had refused.

Ceausescu had rejected a charge of being responsible for the deaths of 60,000 people and denied he and his family had embezzled one billion dollars.

The identities of the judges and those who took part in the trial would not be made public because there would still be many individual members of the Securitate looking for revenge, Lupoi added.

He was speaking in the ruins of what was formally Ceausescu's office in the central committee building, now pock-marked with bullet holes, the windows broken and papers strewn about its blood-stained floor.

The huge office, once luxuriously furnished, had been full of priceless art objects, Lupoi said.

Elena's office nearby had also been filled with gold and gifts presented by various foreign dignitaries.

Elena had been touted as a great scientific mind and had turned one room into a chemical laboratory with solid gold instruments, said another army spokesman.

He said the entire square between the presidential palace and the central committee building had been a warren of Securitate tunnels, now all occupied by the army.

There were still 10 Securitate prisoners inside the building, all wounded, who would be put on trial later, he added. One Securitate member in civilian clothes was seen being taken on a stretcher unconscious under a bloodstained blanket.

Lupoi later said soldiers had been asked to volunteer for the firing squad.

"Everybody volunteered," he said, adding that the three squad members had been chosen by lottery.

The sentence was legal and they were both executed, the television said.

When the sentence came, Ceausescu smiled, apparently as oblivious to his own death as to the deaths of thousands in a police crackdown he ordered in nearby Timisoara a week before.

"Dracula" a guard shouted.

Beside Ceausescu, the woman known as Romania's Lady Macbeth looked on blankly.

SPECIAL REPORT

More countries recognise Front

Execution draws criticism

LONDON, Dec 26, (Agencies): New nations recognised Romania's new leadership today while some criticised it for executing ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife without an open trial.

"Dracula executed," blared the banner headline in Britain's Daily Mirror. "Tyrants are executed," said the rival Daily Express. "Ceausescus are tried and shot," said the Times of London.

Britain, Iran and Greece today joined the United States, the Soviet Union, China and at least 10 other nations in pledging support for Romania's National Salvation Front which is now running the country.

On Sunday, West Germany, Poland, Thailand and Yugoslavia recognised Romania's provisional government, joining France, East Germany, Norway, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Japan is waiting to see whether the new government in Romania has established effective control before deciding to officially recognise it, officials said today.

"Judging from the international trend, we probably will go in that direction (of recognising the new administration)," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, several nations were critical of the new government, saying that Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, whose execution were announced on Christmas Day, should have faced public accusers.

The Dutch government expressed concern at the secret trial and executions and said it hopes "the high principles of the rule of law will find their place in the new Romania for which so many have fought to the utmost."

Iliescu was more understanding. "It was a civil war situation and the normal accepted standards of legality" hardly pertained. "Although one may regret a secret trial, at the time it was not really surprising," said a Foreign Office spokesman.

Iolanda Stranescu, President of the British Romanian Association, said: "Our feeling is that Ceausescu should have had a public trial. It is not an excellent start for the new government."

"It is difficult at this range to know all the reasons for the execution. Maybe it was security. Perhaps at a public trial too much information might have come out about people who might want to be involved in the new government. We are ambivalent."

On Monday, a US statement announcing the establishment of diplomatic relations with Romania said: "We regret the trial did not take place in an open and public fashion. We urge an end to all violence and bloodshed in Romania."

Britain's Ambassador in Bucharest, Michael Atkinson, has already declared Britain's support for the new government, the Foreign Office said today.

Greek Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras also sent a message of recognition to the committee, a government spokesman said.

Ceausescu had maintained good relations with Beijing when China and the rest of the Soviet bloc viewed each other with hostility. He was one of the few leaders to praise the Chinese leadership's crackdown on the student-led pro-democracy movement in June.

The Soviet Union yesterday made it clear it would recognise Romania's provisional government, but said it had never offered it military assistance, as Romanian media had announced.

"The point at issue today is humanitarian, medical and food assistance," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilov was quoted as saying by the official Soviet news agency Tass.

The United States and France said on Saturday they would not oppose Soviet bloc intervention to support Romanians fighting against police units loyal to Ceausescu.

Despite the Kremlin's recognition, Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Aboimov said 280 family members of Soviet government employees in Romania were on a train bound for Moscow as sporadic fighting continued between the pro-democracy forces that overthrew Ceausescu on Friday and secret police loyal to the executed ruler.

"This city is very, very insecure," US embassy official Aggie Kuperman told United Press International by phone from Bucharest. She said the home of the British ambassador burned yesterday and was uninhabitable, and that residences of West German embassy workers had also been damaged.

French education Minister Lionel Jospin, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhak Navot and a Dutch government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, each expressed disapproval of the summary execu-



President Ion Iliescu. (Reuters wirephoto)

Profile

Making a comeback

VIENNA, Austria, (AP): Ion Iliescu, a senior Communist Party official who is said to be a close friend of Mikhail Gorbachev, appears to be in charge of the group provisionally leading Romania.

Iliescu, who was demoted from the prestigious job as party secretary to that of a publishing house director, announced the arrest of ousted Romanian ruler Nicolae Ceausescu on Dec 23.

Iliescu, 59, announced on television Friday the formation of the National Salvation Committee, which he described as the "new organ of state power" in Romania.

While originally one of Ceausescu's close aides in the late 1960s as the man responsible for youth problems and propaganda, he was demoted from the central committee in 1971 and later from the cabinet.

He became regional party secretary in Timisoara, western Romania, and in Iasi, near the Soviet border, in the early 1970s and was summoned to Bucharest and named chairman of a council for water administration.

Fired from that job after a sharp exchange with Ceausescu and the latter's wife, Elena, at a party meeting in the mid-1980s, Iliescu was named director of the Editura Tehnica publishing house.

His reported friendly ties with Gorbachev saved him from a more dramatic fall, informed sources said. They said the two men became acquainted during a period when Iliescu studied at Moscow University.

"Iliescu, as a local party chief, was very informal, he never used the word 'comrade' when addressing people and was ready to talk to them as soon as they knocked at his door," said Cornelia Dimitriu, a university professor in Iasi, where Iliescu was sent in 1974 to serve as regional party secretary.

"He couldn't stand Ceausescu's personality cult and he did not refrain like others from expressing it," she said in an interview. "He often did not obey the orders he received from Bucharest."

"Iliescu fell out of favour with Ceausescu because he was outspoken and frequently aired his grievances. He is a technocrat and not an ideologist," Ms Dimitriu said.

Born in 1930 into a worker's family in eastern Romania, Iliescu, who is married but has no children, held a number of Central Committee jobs through the Communist Party.

He has university degree in business administration. At one point he headed the Central Committee's department of propaganda, and from 1967 to 1971 he was minister of youth problems.

Iliescu, long rumoured to be a possible successor to Ceausescu, did not sign a March 1989 letter to the former Romanian leader that protested the latter's human rights violations and his despotic rule.

Informed Romanians said it might have jeopardised Iliescu had he openly joined them, preferring to appear unblemished in the eyes of Ceausescu, whose secret police reportedly kept close watch on his private life.

In New York yesterday, about 100 Romanians gathered outside the United Nations to honour those who died overthrowing Ceausescu and celebrate the executions of him and his wife.

The Jordanian government

today expressed its support to changes taking place in Romania in a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry.

"The Jordanian government welcomes the new situation and the changes in Romania and

expresses its respect for the brotherly Romanian people," the statement said.

The Romanian embassy in Malaysia has declared its support for its new government, the National Salvation Front.

Iran

NICOSIA, Dec 26, (AP): Iran recognised Romania's new government today and the Parliament demanded that Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati explain why the late Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu was warmly welcomed in the Islamic republic just days before he was overthrown and executed.

Tehran Radio, said the Foreign Ministry announced recognition of the council of the National Salvation Front in Bucharest in a statement.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry is certain that the two nations' ties will continue, and that after the establishment of the popular government in Romania, these relations will expand," the statement said.

The ministry also informed the Romanian Ambassador in Tehran that Iran's Red Crescent Society, is ready to send medical aid to Bucharest to help thousands of people wounded in the fighting that toppled Ceausescu, the radio reported.

The Islamic republic news agency, said the Majlis, as Parliament is known, summoned the Foreign Minister to explain Ceausescu's official visit to Tehran from Dec 18-20.

The uprising against Ceausescu began a few hours before he left for Tehran Dec 18.

The agency said 45 deputies in the 270-seat Majlis demanded that Velayati appear.

Iran said in an earlier report that Velayati ordered Iran's Ambassador to Bucharest, Mohammad Jamshid Gohari, be fired.

Iran said the dismissal "was due to Gohari's failure to furnish the Foreign Ministry with a comprehensive report on the internal situation in Romania" before Ceausescu's visit.

America

WASHINGTON, Dec 26, (Reuters): The United States said today it had recognised and established diplomatic relations with the new National Salvation Front government in Romania.

However, the White House voiced regrets that the trial that preceded the execution of deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was not held "in an open and public fashion."

"The United States has established diplomatic relations with the new, legitimate government of Romania, the National Salvation Front," a White House spokesman said.

The White House spokesman, Sean Walsh, said President George Bush had been notified of the execution of Ceausescu.

"We regret the trial did not take place in an open and public fashion. We urge an end to all violence and bloodshed in Romania," Walsh said.

He said the United States had sent congratulations to the National Salvation Front and pledged US support to the new government, but did not say what that support might be.

China

PEKING, Dec 26, (Reuters): Peking recognised the new government in Bucharest on Tuesday and students celebrated the execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu with a veiled protest against their senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

Students at Peking University, a hotbed of anti-government unrest earlier this year, celebrated the death of Ceausescu, a staunch Peking ally, by smashing bottles — a taunt aimed against Deng whose name in Chinese sounds like "little bottle."

China's Red Cross Society pledged emergency humanitarian aid to Romania, the official New China News Agency said. It did not say what form of aid would take.

"The Chinese government is ready to continue to maintain and develop friendly relations with Romania," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said in a brief statement.

"We never interfere in Romania's internal affairs and we respect the choice made by the Romanian people," she said. "Now a National Salvation Front committee has been established in Romania."

The front, which has formed a provisional government, said Ceausescu was executed on Monday.

Peking maintained close ties with Romania throughout Ceausescu's 24-year grip on power. During the rift in Sino-Soviet relations, the maverick East European leader was always welcomed as an "old friend" in China.

The official media reported the announcement of his execution on Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said it could not yet give any official reaction.

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei called in Romanian Ambassador Angelo Miculescu to offer the Red Cross aid package as a mark of the Chinese people's friendship.

Students at prestigious Peking University said they had listened avidly to foreign radio broadcasts since the Romanian revolt began.

Philippines

MANILA, Dec 26, (Reuters): Philippine President Corason Aquino deplored today the bloodshed in Romania and said she hoped the Romanian people would find peace.

"The staggeringly high number of casualties reported in Romania is truly shocking and deplorable," Aquino said in a written statement. "We join the rest of the world in wishing that country and its people the blessings of peace, freedom and well-being."

Aquino, who took power in a largely bloodless revolt in 1986 that ended the 20-year rule of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, did not say if Manila would recognise the National Salvation Front that overthrew former President Nicolae Ceausescu.

India

NEW DELHI, Dec 26, (Kuna): The Romanian embassy in India has extended full support to the National Salvation Front, which has brought down fall of Ceausescu's autocratic regime.

The embassy has condemned the atrocities committed by the Romanian dictator and mass execution of people in the past two weeks in which about 70,000 people were killed.

A spokesman of the embassy said the decision to support the National Salvation Front was taken after a meeting of embassy staff.

PLO offers medical help

TUNIS, Dec 26, (AP): The Palestine Liberation Organisation ordered Palestinian medical students in Romania today to care for people injured in fighting between the army and forces loyal to toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, said Palestinian students have been assaulted following "anti-Arab" media reports that Palestinians, Libyans and Syrians have fought alongside the despised security forces.

At the organisation's headquarters in Tunis, PLO spokesman Farouk Kaddumi said that the PLO stands ready to send food and medical assistance to the East European country, where thousands are believed to have died.

"Instructions have been given to our medical students to lend their aid, in co-ordination with the Romanian authorities, to help cure victims of the fighting," Kaddumi said.

The organisation estimates about 4,000 Palestinians are students in Romania, with 1,000 studying medicine.

In an interview with Radio France Internationale, Arafat said that Palestinian students had been assaulted in Timisoara, where the uprising against Ceausescu broke out nearly two weeks ago, and in other unspecified cities.

Campaign

Speaking in Baghdad, Iraq, where he was meeting with ambassadors from Eastern European countries, Arafat said the assaults were part of a "zionist" campaign to discredit Arabs in general and Palestinians in particular.

He compared the Romanian revolution to the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

"Don't forget that the people of Eastern Europe display the same gesture as the Palestinians in the occupied territories: 'The V for victory'," Arafat said.

Radio Free Europe and several Eastern European news agencies have accused Arabs of fighting alongside the well-equipped security forces Ceausescu built up to keep himself in power.

Israel, deeply interested in events in Romania because of a large Romanian immigrant population, staged a two-hour radio show today to seek donations and to pass on information about Israelis and Jews in the torn nation.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry said it has delayed plans to send a six-ton shipment of medical supplies to Bucharest because of the closure of the airport. An official said the shipment would go as soon as direct flights were possible.

Israel radio said two Romanian-speaking doctors would accompany the supplies and assist Romanian medical. Israel earlier had planned to send five physicians, but scaled down the venture at the request of Romanian officials.

Bulgarians, linked by television to the violent revolution in neighbouring Romania, have responded with both political and humanitarian support for the new government in Bucharest.

Hundreds of Bulgarians have joined mass meetings throughout the country to show their solidarity with the Front for National Salvation.

At the call of the Bulgarian government, the political parties and various social organisations also have begun a nation-wide relief campaign for the victims of bloodshed in Bucharest, Timisoara, Brasov and other Romanian cities.

Thousands of stations were set up across the country to collect relief supplies.

The first trucks and cars loaded with a 300-bed field hospital, blood plasma, medicine and 82 doctors and nurses had arrived in Bucharest and has begun operation. It has been followed by a column of military vehicles carrying a military field hospital, medical equipment, blankets and tents with medical personnel.

Thousands of citizens in the capital and other cities in the country were voluntarily lining up at medical centres to give blood for transfusions.

Libya, denying its nationals were fighting alongside forces loyal to Ceausescu, says it will fly medical aid to Romania today.

The state-run news agency Jama said the aid was ordered after Libya's Foreign Ministry summoned the Romanian Ambassador last night to protest at reports that Libyans were supporting Securitate secret police units.

The Cuban government has sent 10 tonnes of medicine, including blood plasma, and 10 tonnes of food to assist the victims of the violence in Romania, the Communist Party daily Granma said.



A tank driver puts roses in the hand of his son after hearing the news of Ceausescu's execution. (Reuters wirephoto)



Romanian militiaman sits in the office of Ceausescu at the Communist Party headquarters watching on television the film released showing the execution of Ceausescu. (Reuters wirephoto)



Man looks through a window at the body of an elderly man lying in a small morgue in Timisoara. (Reuters wirephoto)

Obituary

Austerity for others, 'not for me'

BUCHAREST, Romania, (Agencies): Nicolae Ceausescu, a peasant's son who rose to rule Romania with an iron grip for 24 years, created a cult of personality unmatched in Eastern Europe since the days of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

His wife, Elena, became his virtual second-in-command until their sudden descent from power.

The two were reported captured Saturday trying to flee a popular revolution sparked by a massacre of thousands of people.

On Monday, Bucharest radio said they were executed after a secret trial found them guilty of "grave crimes" — among them, the deaths of thousands of protesters and spiriting \$1 billion in public funds out of the country. It was not clear whether the reported deaths occurred during Ceausescu's 24-year rule or since last week's uprising.

Ceausescu was 71. His wife was 72. Before he was shouted down at a Bucharest rally he orchestrated Thursday — his last public appearance — the communist leader's hold on power was so firm that he could carry out a foreign policy independent of the Soviet Union and the other East bloc countries.

Just one month ago, he was overwhelmingly reaffirmed as supreme leader by a fiercely obedient Communist Party conference. He was the last hard-line communist leader in the Soviet bloc after democratic reforms swept through Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria this year.

He imposed austerity on the people yet was building a presidential palace as a monument to himself. He had lavish mountain and seaside retreats.

Born Jan. 26, 1918, in Scornicești, Ceausescu was the third son of a large peasant family. An elementary school dropout, he was apprenticed as a shoemaker, took a job in a factory and joined the illegal Communist Party Youth Organisation at age 15. He became a party member three years later, in 1936.

Before and during World War II, his communist activities landed him in jail several times. He became a protégé of communist leader Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, rose quickly in the party and succeeded him after his death in 1965.

He turned the party into a personal instrument, gradually pushing aside all leaders who opposed his policies and installing loyalists on the ruling 23-member politburo, including Elena Ceausescu, who rose to head the country's scientific community despite doubts about her background and education.

Nicu, their youngest son, was regional party chief in central Romania. Valentin, an adopted son, Zoia-Elena, their daughter, and Ceausescu brothers held prestigious posts, as did several in-laws. Western analysts and knowledgeable Romanians estimate that about 40 members of his family held top jobs in the party and state hierarchy.

When he was elected president in March 1974, an official picture showed him holding a silver sceptre as the symbol of authority.

The personality cult he encouraged took on the trappings of worship and pervaded practically all aspects of public life. His portrait lined the streets in Bucharest and other Romanian cities and bookstores were full of works attributed to him.

Although keeping Romania a member of the Warsaw Pact alliance and the trading group Comecon, Ceausescu was wooed at various times by the United States, Western Europe and China.

The United States and other Western powers originally cultivated Ceausescu's relatively independent foreign policy stand within the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact. Two US presidents visited Bucharest, Richard Nixon in 1969 and Gerald Ford in 1975, and president Jimmy Carter threw a state dinner for him in Washington in 1978.

But in the 1980s, his human rights record soured relations with the West and the crisis at home forced him economically closer to his communist allies.

He made friends with China during the Sino-Soviet split, did not join other communist states in breaking diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and condemned the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

In keeping with his maverick image, he denounced the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, refused to participate and refused to allow any foreign troops in Romania.

Romania was the only East bloc country to send athletes to the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, breaking the Soviet-led boycott.

In later years, he grew more dogmatic, rejecting the need for reform adopted by other bloc allies, such as Poland and Hungary. Earlier this year, he urged his Warsaw Pact allies to invade Poland to prevent a "Solidarity-led government from taking power."

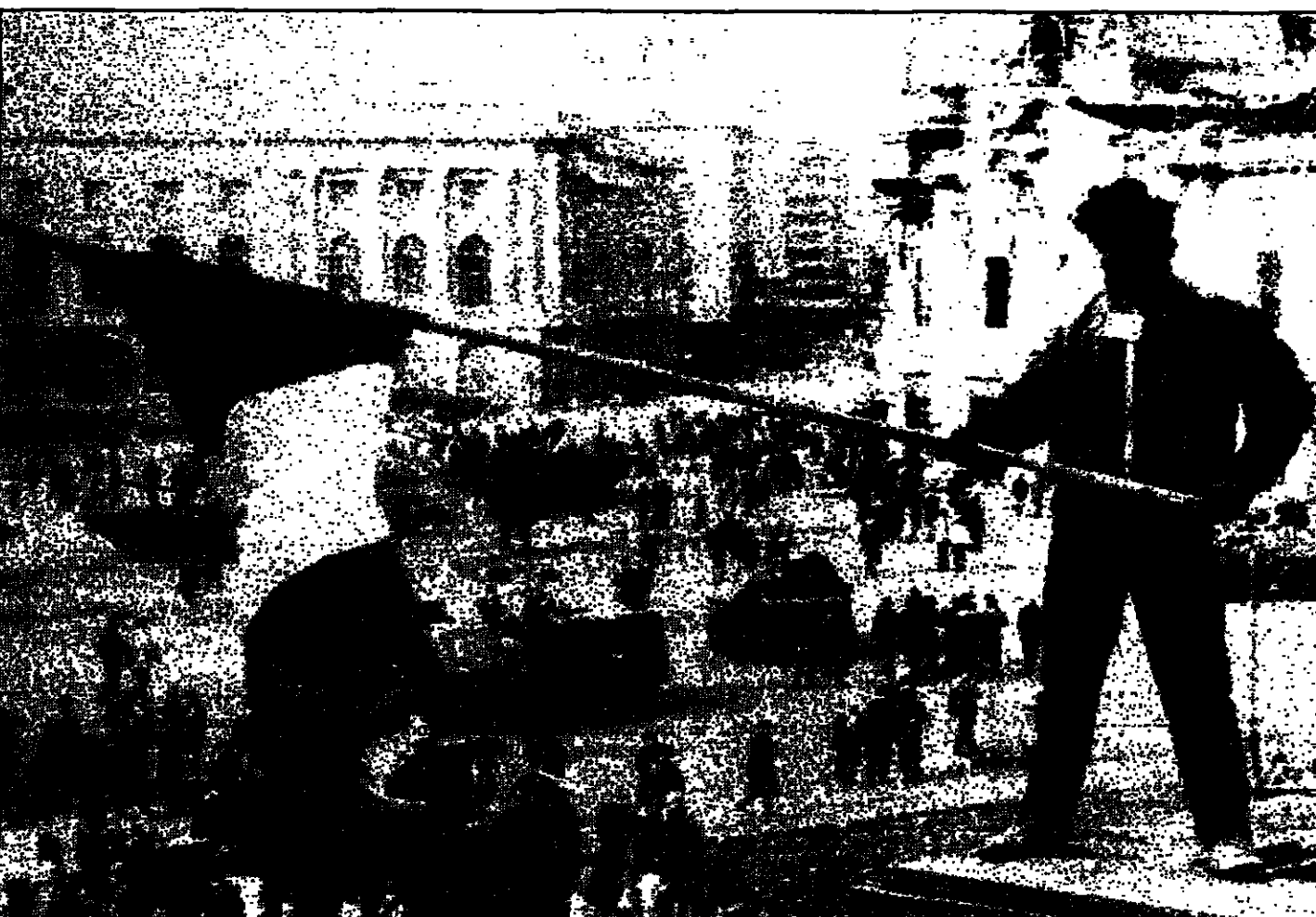
Romania became increasingly isolated in both the East and West, particularly after 38,000 Romanians, mostly ethnic Hungarians, fled to Hungary last year.

The Hungarians complained about alleged discrimination and denial of their ethnic and cultural rights, but they also sought refuge in Hungary to escape chronic hardships under Ceausescu.

Ceausescu viewed the changes in Eastern Europe with alarm, and accused other Warsaw Pact countries of abandoning orthodox communism.



A woman grieves at the grave of her husband in central cemetery in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)



A young man waves a Romanian flag from a balcony of the Central Communist headquarters overlooking Republic Square in Bucharest. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tensions surface between factions

Romanians fed up with communism

BUCHAREST, Dec. 26, (Reuter): The first signs of tensions within the political-military alliance which brought down dictator Nicolae Ceausescu broke through today after a provisional government dominated by communists was announced.

Protesters poured into Palace Square in front of party headquarters to proclaim their hatred of communism, in whose name the brutal Ceausescu ruled for 24 years.

"No more communism, down with the Communist Party," chanted the crowd which demanded members of the new government come to the balcony to address them.

"When they appealed to us to defend the radio and television stations I was always there. Now no one wants to tell us anything," said a young man in his twenties.

"We don't trust them. Communism in Romania is finished forever," added another. Anti-communist slogans have been scrawled in blood-red paint across city buildings.

In a bid to retain control the National Salvation Front, which earlier named a provisional government led by reformist communist Iliu Iliescu, appealed on television for people to boycott a big protest called for later in the day.

"Conditions are not right for a demonstration," said the appeal. The front denounced the demonstration as provocative.

But the newly-proclaimed Romanian Democratic Party, formed yesterday said demonstrations were the only way to place their programme before the people.

"The army did not let us go on television yesterday to speak to the people," said Bogdan Lepadat, a member of the Democratic Party leadership.

This afternoon a bellowing crowd in Palace Square forced the front, at least nominally in control of the army, to give the new party access to the airwaves. A party official read its platform and invited all Romanians to join.

Earlier Democratic Party leader Viorel Craciun said the new organisation would smash the hold of the communists.

"We are the people who fought here," said Craciun, standing on the blood-stained second story of the Communist Party headquarters. "We don't want to change only Ceausescu."

Chief among the party's liberal, democratic platform is abolition of the constitutional guarantee of the communists' leading role. Other provisions include free trade unions and creation of a multi-party system ahead of elections in April.

The National Christian Peasant Party also announced its formation today, calling for "moral rehabilitation on a Christian and peasant foundation, which for 2,000 years proved to be the Romanian nation's backbone."

Pastor sparked revolution

Quiet Toekes eager to resume his parish duties

BUDAPEST, Hungary, (AP): The Protestant pastor who sparked Romania's revolution by inspiring his congregation to defend their faith is a quiet clergyman eager to resume his parish duties.

The revolution that toppled President Nicolae Ceausescu began Dec. 15 in the western city of Timisoara, when several hundred people formed a human chain around the parish church of Laszlo Toekes to prevent his arrest.

That gesture grew into massive protests for freedom that resulted in a bloodbath as thousands were gunned down by Ceausescu's forces.

The brutality of that massacre ignited the hatred and anger of the country's 23 million people, who had suffered immense hardship under Ceausescu's repressive leadership.

A chant often heard in the nationwide protests that finally toppled Ceausescu on Friday was "Timisoara, Timisoara."

Toekes was named to the National Salvation Committee that was formed to run the country, but the soft-spoken minister said he planned to remain in his western village and build up a congregation there.

Born in 1952 in the Transylvanian city of Cluj, Toekes, a reformed Protestant, resisted stifling oppression to campaign for religious and ethnic rights.

Of ethnic Hungarian extraction and the son of a Protestant minister, Toekes has been suspended from ministering to his parishes and moved to other areas when the state deemed that his influence among his congregation had grown too strong.

In April, he was again suspended by his church superiors from preaching in Timisoara, where he had been since 1986.

Toekes refused to comply with the order. His home was repeatedly attacked, and he received threatening notes.

Toekes said in October that reforms in Eastern Europe had "created favourable political circumstances" for Romania and "I am among those who have had enough of silence and being silenced."

After masked men reportedly



Toekes, seen on a video on Austrian Television. (Reuter wirephoto)

broke into his home in November and threatened to kill him and his family, he moved into the church with his pregnant wife and sent their son to stay with

grandparents. On Saturday, Toekes told two Hungarian visitors that when the unrest started in Timisoara, he was abducted and beaten by security guards.

He said he was interrogated for three days at the parish in the Transylvanian village of Minen. On Thursday, he was asked to sign a document stating he had not been mistreated and the interrogating officers asked him for forgiveness, the Hungarian MTI news agency reported, quoting the Hungarians who visited him.

Toekes' cause has been taken up in Hungary, where the plight of the estimated 1.7 million ethnic Hungarian minority in Romania has become a chief concern.

Relations between the two countries have long been strained over the territory of Transylvania, which had belonged to Hungary for centuries before it was awarded to Romania in a 1920 treaty. Except for a brief period during World War II, it remained with Romania.

Supreme moment has come; Romania is free

(Continued from Page 1)

began nine days ago.

New Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman said today Ceausescu and his wife had been summarily executed because of fears loyalists were planning a rescue attempt.

"We believe... we were in a situation which did not allow us to wait," he said on French television.

Iliescu, named by the National Salvation Front as Romania's President until elections, said the army had pressed for rapid executions because of worry about "terrorist groups."

Asked to specify how pro-Ceausescu forces planned to free the detained couple, Roman replied in excellent French: "Who can know? No one can imagine the spread, the exceptional quality of Ceausescu's repressive apparatus."

Roman said the former President and his wife were tried and judged by the same type of summary trial which helped them keep totalitarian power for 24 years.

But asked whether the procedure was a setback for fledgling democracy in Romania, he added:

Mistake
"Perhaps it was a mistake but it is too early to judge now."

In Moscow, a Soviet spokesman said the executions "probably took into account the aspirations and will of the Romanian people."

Injuries from an assault forced the PLO representative in Bucharest to seek hospital treatment, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa said today.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat meanwhile said Palestinian students in Romania have been subject to a wave of attacks due to media reports that Arabs have fought alongside the despised security forces of Ceausescu.

The PLO told Romania's ambassador to Tunisia, Marine Abu, today that Fouad Bitar, chief of the PLO's diplomatic mission in Bucharest, had recently been assaulted and hospitalised. Other details were not disclosed.

"Such acts are irresponsible and contrary to the friendly relations between the Palestinian and Romanian people," PLO spokesman Halim Balawi said at the organisation's headquarters in the Tunisian capital.

Earlier today, television broadcast film showing the couple in captivity. Ceausescu himself appeared almost calm, even occasionally smiling, though the 71-year-old dictator looked gaunt, elderly and was unshaven. Elena by contrast was forlorn, staring dully in front of her and not reacting when her husband briefly patted her leg.

There was no word on where and when the couple was shot by the military firing squad, and no details of where they spent their last captive hours.

The military officer, who asked not to be identified, said 300 soldiers had volunteered for the firing squad, but only three were chosen for the task.

While television showed the bodies, a Bucharest announcer exulted: "All of us wanted to see the dictator shot... the supreme moment has come."

"Down with tyranny," he cried. "Romania is free."

For some, however, even death was too good for Ceausescu, who ruled through a network of terror imposed by more than 700,000 secret police and rationed food for his people while exporting produce to pay for such projects as a new presidential palace.

"He should be stripped naked, and his body paraded through the streets," said Dimitru Minca, 70, whose 14-year-old grandson was among the young protest victims buried at Belo cemetery in Bucharest.

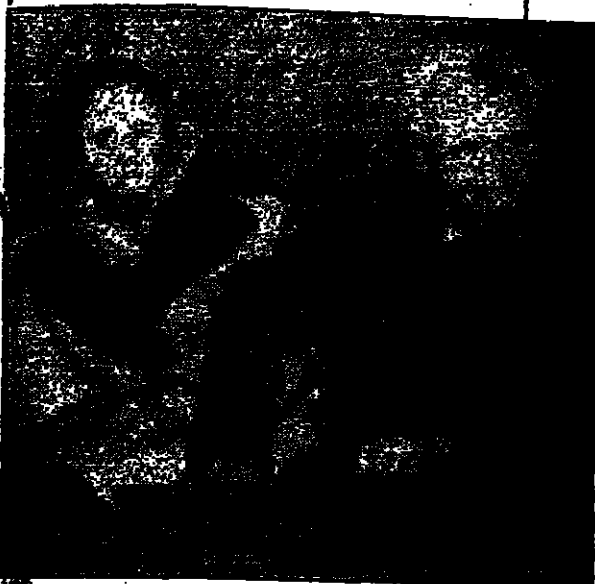
About 10 new political parties have been formed since Saturday, all weak and badly organised.

Liberty

Demonstrators outside of the central committee building today demanded that no communists be included in any new government. They complained that the television station refused to cover them.

"These are the first days of liberty and already they are suppressing us," said Christian Radulescu, a doctor in the crowd.

The head of Kuwait's state-run news agency and President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies denounced today what he described as Zionist-inspired allegations that Arab forces fought alongside troops loyal to Ceausescu, Kuwait radio said.



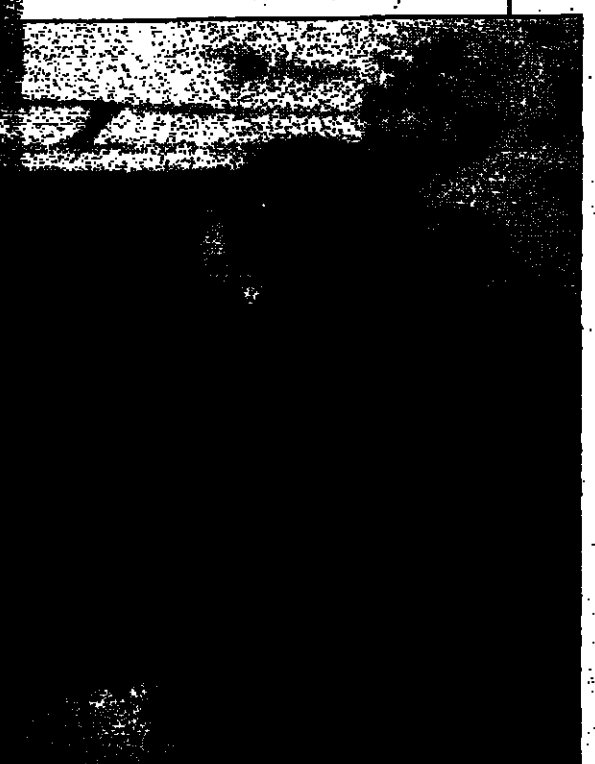
Ceausescu and his wife Elena in front of a military tribunal in footage released on Romanian television. (Reuter wirephoto)



Ceausescu is shown on footage from Romanian television having his blood pressure checked by a doctor. (Reuter wirephoto)



Ceausescu (left) is seen on footage released from Romanian television after his blood pressure was checked. (Reuter wirephoto)



Ceausescu is taken out of an armoured personnel carrier by a Romanian soldier before being executed. (Reuter wirephoto)



Dead body of Ceausescu is shown and to be lying on the ground of Romanian television after execution. (Reuter wirephoto)

SPECIAL REPORT

Panama

He is a common criminal: Cheney

Noriega men give up

(Continued from Page 1)

Wong, surrendered yesterday. Wong had been arrested after a coup attempt in October, but was released.

Murgia said 30,000 pounds (13,600 kg) of emergency medical supplies had arrived in the past day and civilian relief agencies would send workers starting today to help with redistribution.

Twenty-three US soldiers are known to have died and another 330 wounded, Murgia said. The figures for the number of wounded rose because of late-arriving reports, he said. Two US dependents were killed.

Panamanian casualties were listed as 293 killed, 123 wounded and 4,446 captured, according to US military authorities. Panamanian doctors said more than 100 civilian were killed and hundreds more injured.

In a soccer stadium near the Panama Canal, US troops led and assisted up to 10,000 refugees.

Heavy fighting was reported overnight near a downtown sector where many embassies are located, and the building housing the Banco General was burned. Bank officials and US soldiers said the blaze started after US troops returned fire coming from the building.

Fighting also broke out near Santo Tomas Hospital, close to the US embassy. Caches of arms and ammunition have been found hidden in the hospital recently.

Small arms and mortar fire was heard near the Cuban embassy, surrounded by US troops, and the Foreign Ministry, where the government of President Guillermo Endara has set up shop.

Endara, elected in May balloting that Noriega nullified, moved yesterday to consolidate his authority. First Vice-President Ricardo Arias Calderon said a governor had been appointed for six of Panama's 10 provinces.

Presidential spokeswoman Anel Belis called on government workers to return to their jobs today. Government services have been paralysed since the United States invaded one week ago to oust Noriega.

Meanwhile, the Soviet news agency Tass reported that Cuba demanded an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the presence of soldiers around its embassy in Panama blocking diplomatic workers from entering or exiting the compound.

The US government was demanding that the Vatican embassy surrender Noriega. Church authorities refused and tried to find a country willing to take the deposed leader, possibly Cuba.

"We want him alive to stand trial in the United States," US embassy spokesman Terrence Kneebone said. "We see this as a criminal matter. This is not a case of political or religious persecution."

In Rome, Vatican spokesman



American soldiers run in downtown Panama City during a gun battle near Noriega's party headquarters. (Reuter wirephoto)



Cheney (left) presents Private Louis Millen from Ft. Polk, a Bronze Star medal for valor during a ceremony at Ft. Amador on Christmas Day. (Reuter wirephoto)

Joaquin Navarro said yesterday that "concerned parties," including the Endara government, would examine Noriega's case.

Asked if a "simple" turnover of Noriega to the United States was foreseeable, Navarro replied, "well, I don't think so. There isn't an extradition treaty."

Sources in Panama said the Vatican embassy mentioned the possibility of Noriega going to Cuba.

Two Madrid newspapers reported today that Spain has formally denied Noriega's bid for asylum there.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez

was quoted as saying, "Spain is not the ideal country to accept Noriega because of its extradition agreement with the United States, which includes drug trafficking (cases)."

US troops surrounded the Cuban, Libyan and Nicaraguan embassies to prevent Noriega from seeking refuge, but none were at the Vatican building when Noriega arrived Sunday.

Asked why, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told a news briefing in Panama, "we had our hands full carrying out our basic mission."

Cheney said he would like to bring US troops home "as soon as possible," but he added, "they will stay as long as they are needed."

Panama's new Foreign Minister, Julio Linarez, said the US invasion would ensure that the 1977 Panama Canal treaties are fulfilled "as they were signed. In other words, on December 31, 1999, (the canal) will revert to Panama, as well as all its installations."

Editors of the opposition newspaper La Prensa entered their building yesterday for the first time since Noriega shut it down Feb 25, 1988. Much of the equipment was destroyed, and editors said it was uncertain when they could publish.

A Panamanian officer who faces drug-related charges in Florida was escorted to Miami yesterday by US drug agents, the Justice Department said. Lt Col Luis Del Cid surrendered to US forces in Panama on Saturday.

US troops arrested Mario Rognoni, a commerce minister under Noriega, according to witnesses who saw him being taken from his house. It was not known why he was apprehended.

US military officials said most of Noriega's 15,000-member Defence Forces had surrendered and the resistance of loyalists had dwindled. US troops arrived in David, 200 miles (321 km) west of Panama City, and took the airport and a Panamanian military headquarters.

Helicopters dropped thousands of "safe conduct passes" in resistance areas for those who wanted to turn themselves in to US authorities.

Meanwhile in Washington, Cheney said today the United States has not yet considered whether it would allow safe passage for Noriega out of Panama.

Interviewed on ABC television, Cheney said Noriega, who sought asylum in the Vatican embassy in Panama City on Sunday, would be taken into custody by US troops that ring the area if he left its protection.

He said the United States had been in contact with Vatican officials, but declined to disclose details of the discussions.

The New York Times reported today that US officials had asked the Vatican to reject asylum for Noriega and "walk him to the door" of the embassy.

There have been reports that third countries, including Peru, might be willing to take Noriega.



Endara greets supporters in a refugee camp on Christmas morning in Panama City. (Reuter wirephoto)

CBS news producer tells

Ordeal in Panama

NEW YORK, Dec 26 (UPI): A veteran US television news producer recounted his harrowing ordeal during four days of abduction by frenzied Panamanian soldiers loyal to deposed leader Manuel Noriega.

Jon Meyersohn, 33, a news producer for the CBS television network, told reporters at a morning news conference that he was handcuffed by soldiers armed with high-powered weapons and grenades and dragged to several hide-outs before his release was finally orchestrated by another captive, Douglas Mullen, and another man.

Meyersohn credited Mullen, a GTE executive in Panama, and Ramon Mejia, a GTE employee, for securing their safe release.

Members of Noriega's "Dignity Battalions", a paramilitary force recruited from among Panama's poor and criminal elements as a personal police force, abducted Mullen and Meyersohn from the Marriott Hotel in Panama City soon after the US invasion began about 1 am Wednesday.

The two US citizens were released Saturday after an intense negotiating session during which the lead Noriega loyalist broke down in tears while holding a grenade in a house where the two US citizens awaited US embassy help, Meyersohn said.

When US soldiers arrived at 4 pm, "he still had the grenade in his hand," Meyersohn said. The Noriega loyalist then put it down at Mullen's urging and the captors exited the house first, the producer said.

Meyersohn's wife, Julie Harstenstein, a television news producer in New York for the ABC network, who stared glassy-eyed at her husband for much of the news conference, called Sunday "the happiest day of her life."

When she heard Meyersohn was a captive, she said, "my life started to pass before my eyes. It

Sidekicks

Cheney confirms: The top secret US Stealth fighter jet, used for the first time last week in the American invasion of Panama, reduced casualties on both sides, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said on Monday.

Cheney, on a Christmas Day visit to US troops and Panama's new leaders, told a news conference that the F-117A fighter was used to drop two 2,000-pound (900 kg) bombs near the Rio Hato Military Base 120 km (75 miles) west of Panama City, where two Panamanian infantry companies were based.

"It is a very accurate weapon and the reason we used that particular weapon is because of its great accuracy," Cheney said.

He said the jet dropped the bombs last Wednesday to pave the way for crack US forces and to stun and disorient the Panamanian military at the Rio Hato Base. (Reuter)

Canal open during daylight: The Panama Canal is operating during daylight hours only following last week's invasion of Panama by the United States, but officials hope normal operations will resume by the end of this week.

Approximately 100 ships are waiting to enter the waterway, Panama Canal commission spokeswoman Willie Friar said on Monday.

Half of the waiting ships are moored off the Caribbean Coast, while the rest wait at the Pacific entrance.

On Sunday 12 ships sailed through the canal, and another 12 were expected to sail, Friar said, adding that normally 32 ships a day pass through the canal.

Iran paper praises Panama: Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday condemned the United States' invasion of Panama and a Tehran newspaper named the ousted Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega as a hero of the anti-American struggle.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Rafsanjani also urged Iranians to converge on the parliament building in Tehran Tuesday for a big anti-American demonstration.

He said US forces invaded Panama under the pretext of restoring democracy, but "the real aim of Washington was the Panama Canal."

was really hell."

At one point Meyersohn cradled his wife in his arms as she spoke.

A 10-year veteran of CBS news, Meyersohn said he held no animosity towards the people of Panama nor towards his captors, whom he called the "soul of Panama."

Meyersohn, whose eyes were downcast for much of the news conference, said the ordeal began after a grueling night of taping a news programme.

Both men were taken to an abandoned social club where their hands were handcuffed behind them with ropes tied to

tree branches, but they were soon thrown in a van with rice, water and other supplies because of the sound of helicopters and gunfire, he said.

"Doug and I looked at each other then and said, 'this is it. We're going to be killed or (we're) going to be here for a very long time.'"

They were later transferred to another house to stay with a family with four children.

Meyersohn said he spent much of Thursday watching television.

But on Friday, the two US citizens were taken to a small city apartment and later to the negotiating house.

Even if Noriega were brought to the United States, other complications could stand in the way of a trial.

Raymond Takiff, Noriega's attorney in

Noriega key man gives up to US

WASHINGTON, Dec 26 (UPI): A top aide to former Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega wanted on drug charges in the United States surrendered yesterday to US military forces in Panama and was flown to Miami, the US Justice Department said.

Luis Del Cid is one of five Panamanians, including Noriega, named in 1988 indictments. Del Cid was charged with cocaine trafficking and money laundering in an indictment filed in Miami. Justice Department spokeswoman Deborah Burston-Wade said. Eleven Colombians also have been charged in the Miami and Tampa, Florida, indictments.

Burston-Wade said Del Cid turned himself in to the US forces in Panama yesterday. He was arrested by US Drug Enforcement Agency officials and then flown to Miami.

In Panama, witnesses said Del Cid announced Friday at 5th military zone headquarters in the western town of San Andres that he would give up and surrender troops under his control.

"He recognised the errors that the regiment had committed and accepted whatever punishment for his actions," San Andres resident Avellino Saldaña Guerra said.

"He said he decided to surrender so there would be no more bloodshed. He was very, very nervous. His hands were trembling and his face was pale. The crowd applauded him."

Panama does not have an extradition treaty with the United States, but since Del Cid surrendered, DEA agents were able to spirit him immediately to Miami to face charges.

"We are pleased to have gotten one of the high-ranking Panamanians we have been seeking in this country. We are hoping we will get others. Whether in fact we take possession of them or not depends on conditions in Panama," said David Runkel, spokesman for Attorney-General Richard Thornburgh.

Del Cid was "one of Noriega's key people in the defence forces," Runkel said.

According to Kevin Buckley, who is writing a book for Simon and Schuster about Noriega, the deposed Panamanian leader and Bush first met in 1976. Bush headed the CIA at the time, and Buckley said Noriega commanded his country's intelligence services.

In 1983, Bush visited Noriega in Panama and reportedly hinted that if the general helped the US-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels, the United States would turn a blind eye to his drug profit laundering, Buckley said. Bush has denied making any such promise.

Scene

Panama City coming back to life

PANAMA CITY, (UPI): Panamanians in El Chorrillo neighbourhood of the capital that was levelled during Wednesday's invasion spent Christmas, touring the ruins and guessing about the fate of deposed dictator Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The capital seemed to come back to life Monday and there was heavy traffic on some streets. Crowds filed past US troops on guard in El Chorrillo to share in the rubble, the burned cars and the rubble of the destroyed Panamanian Defence Forces headquarters.

Some drank bottles of beer and snapped photos of the US troops, while other gaped at the extent of the destruction.

"There was a lot of death, a lot people lost everything," said local resident Miguel Piner, "but thank God they got rid of the strongman."

Emiliano Caribald, another resident, said, "we are coming here to see what remains of El Chorrillo. You can see that all that's left is ruins."

On Avenue A in El Chorrillo, a crowd gathered as US troops inspected guns that

residents had turned in an exchanged for cash.

An army lieutenant who asked not to be named said the United States had paid about \$40,000 to Panamanians who turned in weapons. He said the US forces have received everything from Uzi machine-guns to "dad's old shotgun."

Several residents said the local population was still somewhat shell-shocked by the invasion but that Sundays news that Noriega was at the Papal Nunciature, seeking asylum, made for a nice Christmas present.

Another possible solution is to remove Noriega from Panama to a third country. The United States set a precedent for such a scen-

ario when it negotiated with Noriega in 1988 after he was indicted in Florida, and again as recently as October.

State Department officials were apparently prepared to drop their demand for bringing Noriega to the United States if he agreed to resign his posts. Later, the US upped its ante and demanded that Noriega leave Panama.

Spain, Cuba and the Dominican Republic — where Noriega has a daughter and some real estate — have been mentioned as possible exiles. Until now, Noriega has refused to go.

But in any deal Noriega works out, he would likely demand a promise that he not be extradited to the United States.

That could create a problem with Spain which has a 1970 extradition treaty with the United States.

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez

handle the next step could determine not only Noriega's fate, but the future of the strategically placed isthmus for years to come.

US interests appear to be best served by Noriega's speedy removal from the Papal nunciature, where he is protected by diplomatic immunity and by the spotlight of international attention. As long as he stays, attention could be diverted from US efforts to restore order to the devastated country.

The White House said Sunday it still hopes to bring Noriega to justice. He was indicted in Florida on federal charges in 1988.

But the Vatican, which has offered haven to Noriega's foes in recent months, would have to reverse centuries of practice and diplomatic principle to hand the general to the United States against his will.

Asked if a simple turnover were foreseea-

Noriega forces Bush into a diplomatic quagmire

WASHINGTON, (AP): Manuel Antonio Noriega's decision to seek asylum at the Vatican's embassy in Panama City forces President George Bush into the thicket of diplomacy and international law in pursuit of the deposed dictator.

"Now it's up to the lawyers and the diplomats," summed up defence chief Dick Cheney, whose troops tried but failed to capture the elusive dictator in more than four days of searching.

When Noriega drove up to the Vatican embassy in Panama City on Christmas eve, Bush accomplished a central goal of the invasion he ordered last week: removing the indicted drug trafficker from all power in Panama.

But now Bush, Panama's US-backed government, the Vatican and other nations

able, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said, "Well, I don't think so. There isn't an extradition treaty on anything."

Bush, who has held several diplomatic jobs in his career, presumably understands the complexities well. The United States has been sheltering Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi in the US embassy in Beijing for many months despite Chinese demands to hand him over.

Bush could ask the government of US-backed President Guillermo Endara to demand Noriega be handed over by the Vatican. But Endara has already said his country is forbidden by its constitution to extradite any Panamanian citizen to the United States.

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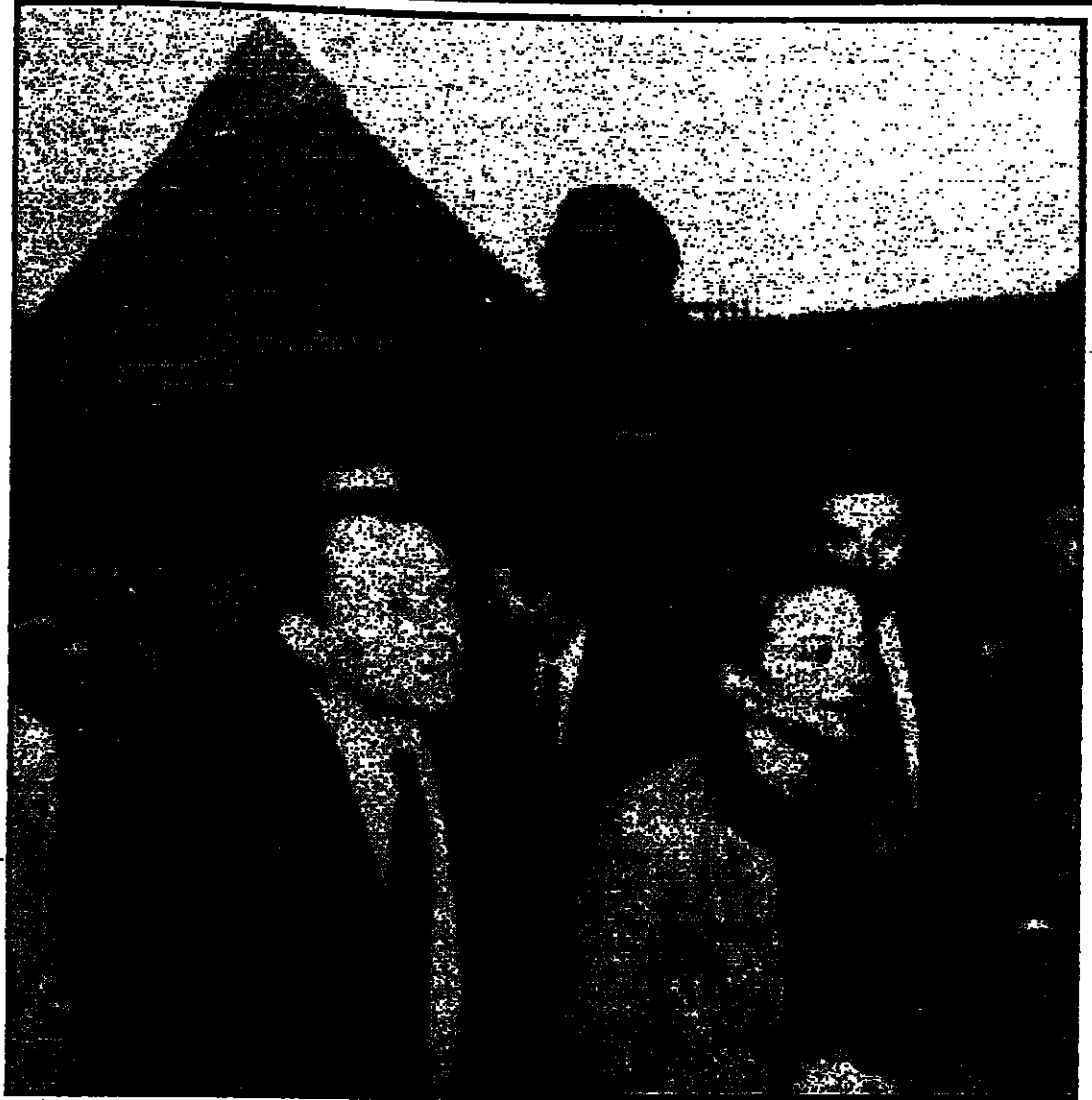
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Asked if a simple turnover were foreseea-

UPJ/CLO/150



Rocard in Egypt
French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and his wife walk arm-in-arm as they visit the Pharaonic monuments at the Giza pyramids. Rocard, on a private visit to Egypt, will spend a week visiting the temples in Luxor and Aswan in upper Egypt. (Reuters wirephoto)

FLN pledges reforms

Warning against intellectual terrorism

ALGERIA, Dec 26 (Reuters): Algeria's ruling party, in an apparent reference to Muslim fundamentalism, warned against the dangers of violence and intellectual terrorism. The National Liberation Front (FLN) also pledged to press ahead with reforms to transform the one-party political system into a multi-party democracy.

An FLN statement said it would "alert the people to the dangers of violence, all forms of intellectual terrorism, anarchic practices and anything that affects citizens' security or the stability of society."

More than 300,000 Muslim militants marched through Algiers last Thursday waving copies of the Holy Quran and carrying banners calling for strict observance of Islamic precepts.

Diplomats said Muslim militancy had become a major force led by the Islamic Salvation Front, one of numerous parties to emerge since President Chadli Benjedid began dismantling the socialist one-party system last year.

Extracts from yesterday's FLN statement broadcast on television said liberal political and economic reforms introduced by Benjedid after widespread rioting in October 1988 would be pursued to strengthen democracy based on a multi-party system.

The FLN central committee elected a reformist Politburo yesterday which excluded veteran party leaders associated with the dogmatic socialism dominant since independence in 1961.

Veteran politicians were excluded from the leadership of FLN party, the official news agency APS said.

Diplomats said the new decision-making Politburo confirmed Benjedid's decision to liberalise the Algerian political system when he began political and economic reforms after widespread rioting in October 1988.

The National Liberation Front (FLN), is now one of over 30 political parties authorised by an amended constitution introduced by Benjedid.

The party's central committee elected a 15-member Politburo and elected Abdelhamid Meftah as party secretary-general.

Trial for mutiny: Defence attorneys argued on Tuesday that 14 high-ranking Ethiopian military officers should not be tried by a court martial on charges of mutiny.

The trial of the 14 — five major generals, one rear admiral and eight brigadier generals — resumed on Tuesday after a one-week adjournment to give the defendants time to obtain attorneys.

The presiding judge gave the prosecution 10 days to reply to the defence attorneys, who argued unanimously that the defendants should be tried in a civil court. (AP)

Moscow visit postponed: Vice Premier Shimon Peres has unexpectedly postponed a trip to Moscow that was planned for Jan 2, an official said on Tuesday.

Peres, who is also Finance Minister and heads the left-leaning Labour Party, was to have been the highest ranking Israeli to visit the Soviet Union in at least two decades.

No future date was set for the trip, said an official in Peres' office who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said the reason for the postponement was the minister's preparations to win parliamentary approval for a controversial budget proposal for fiscal 1990 and because there were no final schedules for Peres' meetings in Moscow. (AP)

Iran seizes 112 kg of heroin: Iranian Revolutionary Guards seized 112 kg (135 pounds) of heroin and arrested 24 smugglers in a series of raids in western Iran, the national news agency said on Tuesday.

Iran, which had a street value of \$7 million, said the haul had a street value of one million drug addicts, lies on a narcotics-smuggling route from Afghanistan and Pakistan. It has executed more than 900 drug traffickers this year.

Israelis attack Communist Party bases

(Continued from Page 1)

confirmed their strike, saying: "The target attacked served as headquarters for a terrorist organisation of the Communist Party in the area of Ramallah. There were death and injuries."

Israeli helicopters earlier bombed two villages while a 75-man airborne force landed to attack a Communist Party base in the village of Nabi Saffi, 30 km (18 miles) north of the Israeli border, security sources said.

Two guerrillas were killed, four were wounded and many buildings were destroyed in the three-hour operation, Israel's largest long-range foray into Lebanon for more than a year, the sources said.

Fighters of the Lebanese Communist Party have launched scores of attacks on Israeli troops and their militia allies of the South Lebanon Army (SLA). Last year a communist woman shot and seriously wounded SLA commander Antoine Lahd.

Security sources also said a separate Israeli ground force, backed by four tanks and eight armoured personnel carriers, advanced 13 km (eight miles) outside Israel's self-declared security zone at dawn into the village of Marj Al Zuhour.

Pilgrims pay quiet visit to Bethlehem

OCCUPIED Bethlehem, Dec 26, (UPI): On the road heading west out of Jerusalem workers were busy yesterday fixing one of the few Christmas decorations to adorn the highway welcoming people to the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

On Christmas Eve, tourists and pilgrims travelling to Bethlehem for the traditional midnight mass could only make out the word "merry". Lights, spelling out the word "Christmas" were not working.

For the third year in a row, Palestinians in Bethlehem have refused to celebrate Christmas despite efforts by the Israeli government to create a festive atmosphere in this small town west of Jerusalem.

"I didn't feel anything," said Eddy Abujorah, a Palestinian who hawks souvenirs in front of the Church of the Nativity. "It's not a real Christmas. It's a Christmas for the military. Christmas is to be free, not to be tied."

Security in Bethlehem, always tight around this time of year, was more relaxed yesterday than Christmas Eve, when South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu visited the town to endorse the Palestinian struggle on his five-day Christmas pilgrimage.

With the uprising in its third year and more than 600 Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians since the beginning of the intifada, Palestinians have felt it inappropriate to celebrate Christmas.

The unrest has had a big impact on the town where Jesus was born. Shops selling olive wood and mother of pearl souvenirs have closed. Hotels and restaurants that once did a bustling trade also are shut.

But on Christmas day, dozens of buses pulled into Manger Square as tourists and pilgrims scrambled to visit the Church of the Nativity complex. Inside the complex, people lined up to the grotto where a small aspidochelone rock surrounds the altar over the traditional spot of Jesus' birth. The mood was somber and reflective.

Down inside the grotto, the sound of Christmas carols and camera flashes could be heard as people waited patiently for their chance to kneel in prayer in front of the spot, marked by a silver star.

Clutching an armful of bangles and necklaces at cut-rate prices, Abujorah said there were more tourists yesterday than Christmas Eve, but he added "they are not quality tourists. We don't have Americans come here anymore. They are the best. Most are coming from Eastern Europe and they don't spend a lot of money."

For Efram Shahin, a Palestinian Christian who owns a souvenir shop in Bethlehem, Christmas this year has been anything but spiritual.

"When you pray you want to feel the spirit of the mass, but when you see hundreds of soldiers you feel like you are in a war and there is no Christmas," he said.

Rights activists termed subversives

CAIRO, Dec 26, (Reuters): Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr, known for his tough tactics against opposition groups, said in remarks published today that the world's human rights activists were subversives.

"They are all envious of our society and they spread poison to satisfy their desires and their subversive inclinations," Egypt's Mena news agency quoted him as saying.

Badr, who escaped an apparent assassination attempt this month, was replying to a reporter's question about

allegations by human rights groups that Egyptian security police have tortured prisoners.

"I am sorry to say that all workers in (the human rights) field on the local and international level are not up to the required standard," Badr said.

"They consider human rights to be the rights of the criminal only and they don't try to tap the rights of those against whom the crimes are committed," he added.

Badr, a 53-year-old police general

and the strongman of President Hosni Mubarak's government, has detained hundreds of Muslim fundamentalists and other political opponents over the past eight months.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights watchdog, said in May that state security police inflicted electric shocks, cigarette burns and sexual abuse on detainees.

It urged Egypt to tighten controls on treatment of political detainees and allow them swift appearances in courts if they complained of torture.

Badr told Mena his officers strictly abided by all prison rules and respected court rulings.

Emergency powers imposed after President Anwar Sadat was assassinated in 1981 allow police to detain suspects indefinitely and rearrest them if a court orders their release.

Badr escaped unhurt when a truck blew up near his car in Cairo on December 16. Prosecutors ordered a media blackout on investigations of the blast.

Hezbs gaining in Shiite battles

KFAR HITTI, Lebanon, Dec 26, (Reuters): The pro-Iranian Hezbollah won more ground from the Syrian-backed Amal militia today as the Shiite battles in South Lebanon raged on for a fourth day.

Hezbollah militants advanced under a blanket of artillery and mortar fire to seize the village of Kfar Mikil in Iqlim Al Tufah district, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut, security sources said.

Amal militiamen defended the village from house to house before it finally fell to Hezbollah, witnesses said.

There were no immediate reports on casualties, but hospital sources said at least 40 people had been killed and 170 wounded since the fighting erupted on Saturday. The dead included at least 12 Amal and 10 Hezbollah fighters.

Hezbollah, financed, trained and equipped by Iran, earlier captured the Amal-held villages of Kfar Fila, Ann Qana, Boushaya and Jirayra.

Thousands of villagers have fled Iqlim Al Tufah, a Shiite Muslim region extending from the southern part of Sidon to Israel's self-proclaimed security zone north of its border.

Security sources said Hezbollah militants were combing Kfar Mikil to eliminate the last pockets of Amal resistance.

A Reuters reporter who reached the nearby Amal-held village of Kfar Hitti said the crackle of machine-gun fire and thud of explosions could still be heard from the battle zone.

Kfar Hitti, usually home for 12,000 people, was almost deserted except for Amal fighters in combat positions on the roofs of its stone houses.

One of the few remaining villagers, Husein Hamayeh, 75, said: "I had to leave my family away. I stayed behind to protect my home and belongings."

"Only someone like me who doesn't care for his life could stay in a house when shells are crashing nearby."

Waite in Iranian hands: Bani Sadr

PARIS, Dec 26, (AP): Former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said yesterday he believes British hostage Terry Waite is being held by Iranian secret service agents, either in Lebanon or Iran.

The former president said in an interview that friends in Iran had told him Waite had been "in a safe place, in security for several months in the hands of the Iranian secret services."

Bani-Sadr, who was the Islamic Republic's first president but has lived in exile in France since 1981, said it was possible Waite was in Iran but "I think it's more likely he's in Lebanon."

He said he believed the transfer of Waite to Iranian hands could be a sign that negotiations for release of him and other Western hostages seized in Lebanon could be making progress.

No group has claimed to hold him.

Waite is one of 18 foreigners and four Britons missing in Lebanon.

Palestinians set fire to Israeli bus

Call to increase protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 26, (Agencies): Axe-wielding Palestinians set fire to an Israeli bus taking Arab workers from the occupied West Bank to jobs in Israel today but all 50 passengers escaped injury, the driver said.

In the West Bank, a 26-year-old Palestinian shot in a clash with troops in Janyeh village near Ramallah yesterday died of his wounds, hospital and army sources said.

Buses, a symbol of Israeli rule in the West Bank, have been the target of previous attacks by activists of the two-year-old Palestinian uprising.

The assailants forced the Arab driver, Mahmoud Abu Rabiya, to take the bus from Megiddo junction inside Israel back to Zafati village in the West Bank before they set it ablaze.

"A young man, maybe 20, descended on me suddenly with an axe at the back of my head and forced me to enter Zafati," Abu Rabiya said.

"He asked his partner to pour petrol over the inside of the bus and they lit it, but by a miracle we escaped."

Police combed the area for the assailants who fled along with the Arab passengers travelling from the West Bank town of Jenin to jobs near Haifa in northern Israel.

Senior police officials said the attack on the bus was part of a surge in "terrorist" activity along the so-called green line separating Israel from the West Bank.

On Dec 13, Arab militants set off a remote-controlled bomb one mile (1.5 km) inside Israel from the line. The blast, the first of its kind reported in Israel, damaged a car but caused no injury to its pregnant woman driver.

In Ramallah hospital, Faraj Dhafer Abu Fkheideh of Janyeh village died of a bullet wound to the chest received in Monday's clash.

He was the 606th Palestinian killed by Israelis during the uprising. Palestinian militants have killed at least 158 Arabs, most suspected of collaborating with Israel, and 44 Jews.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinians shot and seriously wounded an Arab who once worked as an Israeli police officer, security sources said. Palestinians said he was an Israeli informer.

In Gaza, military authorities delayed until Jan 3 the trial of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, spiritual leader of the outlawed Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas, to prevent violent protests, Israeli sources said.

Gaza Strip hospitals said eight

Lack of support lamented

KUWAIT, Dec 26, (Agencies): Arab government and popular support to the Palestinian uprising is still far below the required level to keep it going, says Palestine's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Rafiq Al Natsha.

In an interview with Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas, published here today, Natsha was quoted as saying the monthly \$5 million assistance to the PLO, channelled through the Unesco, was not enough to suffice the need for essentials inside the occupied territories.

"I believe that official and popular support is still below the level and we hope that situation will improve," Natsha told the paper.

Asked on arming the Palestinians to continue their two-year-old revolt against occupation, he strongly opposed the idea, saying the magnitude of the intifada relies on what he termed as civil violence.

The Jordanian government has agreed to PLO requests to ease restrictions on the movement of people and goods from the Israeli-held West Bank to Jordan, officials said today.

Interior Minister Saleh Masa'deh was earlier quoted as saying that Jordan would review the aftermath of its break with the West Bank 18 months ago after 38 years of unity.

"We shall study all repercussions that followed Jordan's severing of ties with the West Bank and will take measures to ease any hardships that affected people on a human or personal level," Masa'deh told the Arabic-language daily Ad-Dustour.

His remarks followed a visit to Amman last week by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

Palestinians were wounded in scattered clashes today. Residents reported that troops in civilian clothes opened fire on protesters in the main square of Gaza City.

Meanwhile, the underground Palestinian leaders have ordered increased protests against Israeli occupation but unusually they did not explicitly reject a US plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In a leaflet distributed yesterday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation-backed leaders of a two-year-old Palestinian revolt called for a week's escalation of protests to mark the 25th anniversary of the PLO's Fatah faction, founded by Yasser Arafat on Jan 1, 1965.

The leaflet said Jan 1 should be celebrated with marches, the hoisting of banned Palestinian flags, the painting of nationalist graffiti and the blowing of car horns for a minute at noon throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli security sources said the army was concerned about possible violence on Fatah day and might seal off some areas, impose curfews and call in troop reinforcements.

Mubarak pacifies Saddam on Syria

KUWAIT, Dec 26, (UPI): Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abdel Meguid met yesterday in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in a further sign of a warming of the diplomatic chill between the two nations, the official Iraqi news agency reported.

Abdel Meguid, who arrived earlier yesterday in Baghdad, was making the first high-level visit by a senior Egyptian official since a dispute arose last month over the alleged mistreatment of Egyptian workers in Iraq, the news agency INA reported.

INA, monitored in Kuwait, quoted the Abdel Meguid as saying "relations between the two countries are excellent."

"Our relations are strategic and deep-rooted," said Abdel Meguid, who delivered to Hussein a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The dispute between the two countries broke out in early November after Egyptian newspapers reported an alleged increase in the death rate among the estimated two million Egyptian workers in Iraq.

Saddam had tried to calm the matter by dispatching First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan to Cairo. Ramadan, who visited Egypt earlier this month, held talks with senior Egyptian officials including Mubarak and Prime Minister Anif Sedki.

Iran may boycott

NICOSIA, Dec 26, (Reuters): Iran said today it might boycott the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah, Saudi Arabia, for a third successive year.

Iran has objected to a haj quota of 45,000 Iranian pilgrims endorsed by the organisation of Islamic Conference and says it should be allowed to send at least 150,000.

The dispute over the pilgrimage was a major reason for a break in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

South African archbishop defends his criticism

Israeli leaders were terrorists, says Tutu

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 26, (AP): South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu today defended his criticism of Israel's treatment of Palestinians and said that former Israeli leaders engaged in terrorism in the past.

Minister of Religion Zevulun Hammer told the Nobel peace prize winner that he showed a "simple lack of understanding" towards the problems of the Middle East.

Hammer, who held a one-hour meeting with Tutu, was the only Israeli official to meet with Tutu during his five-day Christmas pilgrimage to the holy land.

During his visit, Tutu visited Bethlehem and the Christian village of Beit Sahur in the occupied West Bank, met with Palestinian leaders and prayed at Yad Vashem, Israel's memorial to the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis.

Israelis have been highly critical of Tutu's pilgrimage, and the South African human rights activist said an Israeli shouted "black Nazi pig" at him during one rally here.

He said despite the insults he hoped his visit would increase understanding between Arabs and Jews.

"If that can spread, the visit will have been most worthwhile, even if I have been called a black Nazi pig," he said.



Tutu waves as he is escorted by Israeli soldiers from a Christmas service in Shepherd's Field. (Reuters wirephoto)

accused, of being anti-Semitic, tough luck," he said.

Hammer, who joined Tutu in an informal news conference, said the bishop's views of the Middle East showed a lack of understanding and urged the Anglican archbishop to recognise the Israeli view.

"It is to my sorrow a simple lack of understanding and it is worthwhile to clarify because the situation is completely different," he said.

"I tried to explain that with us, in Judaism, and in the state of Israel, freedom is part of the rights of man and part of our beliefs," he said. "The ones who have been denied their historical rights are us and we are the ones who were persecuted."

He said he asked Tutu to "be sensitive to the sufferings of both sides."

When asked if he would condemn Palestinian attacks on Israelis as "terrorism" and whether he considered PLO chairman Yasser Arafat a terrorist, Tutu said the definition of terrorism must take into account military attacks on civilians. He also said that Israeli leaders have practiced terrorism in the past.

"There are people in high positions in Israel who did things which they would now call terrorism, for example the bombing of the King David Hotel," he said. He was referring to the July 1946 bombing that left 91 British, Arabs and Jews dead.

The attack on the hotel, which contained British military headquarters, was carried out by the Jewish Irgun underground led by former Israeli leader Menachem Begin.

"That was a terrorist act and Begin later became prime minister," Tutu said.

Tutu said he did not meet with Israeli politicians because of his tight schedule, but added if he had met Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir he would have repeated his call for Israel to end its harsh treatment of Palestinians.

"I would say to him that I cannot myself understand people who have suffered as Jews

have suffered inflicting suffering of the kind that I have seen on the Palestinians," the Anglican church leader said.

Tutu made his statements after his meeting with Hammer and his prayers at Yad Vashem.

He rejected Israeli criticism of his comparison of South Africa's oppression of blacks

with Israel's treatment of Palestinians, which he has repeated throughout his visit.

"Some of the things I have seen here are things I have seen at home," he said. "When I find injustice in the world, whoever perpetrates it must know that I will condemn them."

"If I am accused, as I am often

EVENTS

Indian Video Roundup

Imagination, reality and fiction

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

AMITABH Bachchan breaks out of bondage in *Main Azaad Hoon*, one of the few political films made in Bombay, and recently released on video.

Bombay filmmakers seldom tackle political themes and when they do, they wrap it up in glitz and glamour, with muted comments in between the lines — or rather scenes. Such movies seldom are boring and repetitive. *Main Azaad Hoon* is not.

One only wishes that the Nadiawala's had not resorted to extending dramatic licence to such an extent that a plausible movie snacks of commercialism, albeit for moments.

Some imagination, a dash of reality, spiced with fiction gives *Main Azaad Hoon* flesh and blood.

Azaad, the protagonist, is the figment of a journalist's imagination. He is born when the gutsy journalist Subhashini (Shabana Azmi) is on the verge of losing her job when a new publisher, Gokuldas, buys the paper. Gokuldas wants "sensational news" — news that sells papers. Subhashini in her last column creates a myth: Azaad, a fearless Indian who can die for the freedom of his people.

From this myth spring surprises. Azaad exists; he creates a stir among ruling circles. The ruling party and the opposition want to win his favour; they give in to some of his demands. In the end, they want to annihilate him. Will they?

Even if *Main Azaad Hoon* were fiction, it rings true hammering home truths that seldom come to life on the silver screen. The theme weaves politics of wealth, intrigue, treachery and corruption — all too familiar aspects — to make engrossing cinema.



Amitabh breaks out of bondage

Azaad and Subhashini's confrontation — he trying to live an ideal and she crushing it — is one of the most memorial sequences in the film. Punchy lines forcefully put across home truths.

But one does feel let down when dramatic licence is misused to introduce the all too familiar sequences of hoodlums to neutralise Azaad. One feels that it would have been better if the film concluded as it did without the needless scenes of violence.

One also forgives the third estate portrayed as a media to manipulate public opinion to meet the tailor-made needs of the power hungry. Subhashini's is a strong character, first playing into the hands of the publisher and then breaking free. So is Azaad's.

Somehow, somewhere you've seen or heard of people being used as tools to oil the machinery, and keep it working, sometimes at the expense of self-esteem. This is where the film scores a point.

Its Amitabh's film, start to finish. The superstar who suffered two setbacks in a row — *Toofan* and *Jadugar* — revives his charisma as Azaad, displaying his versatility. He is ably supported by Shabana Azmi, whose expressive face and eyes are sufficient to convey words where dialogue is not needed.

A serious film, it demands attention to absorb dialogue, one of the strengths of the film. Unfortunately, the video shops have deleted the credits, so we



Sridevi

don't know who has written dialogue.

Chaalbaaz

Chaalbaaz is Sridevi's film, an attempt to revive the magic of earlier ventures like *Seda aur Geeta* (starring Hema Malini) and *Ram aur Shyam* (with Dilip Kumar). Those films revolved around twins, one rich the other poor, and were a balanced mixture of comedy and tragedy. One still remembers Hema as Seta and Geeta, and who can forget Dilip as Ram and Shyam, particularly. Perhaps, we can now add Sridevi as Anju and Manju to the list. Anju is not quite unique as Geeta or Shyam; she is their shadow.

In the tradition of double-

trouble dramas, *Chaalbaaz* is about two girls — Anju and Manju. Anju's timidity is nurtured uncle Anupam Kher; Manju's bravery is born of living on the streets. You'll never guess how they separate at birth! And reunite? Well! Its anybody's guess.

If you can stomach Anju's torture at her home, you'll probably eventually relish her capers after she escapes from prison — sorry, home and meets Rajnikant, a taxi driver. And, if you're Sridevi's fan, you'll certainly cherish *Chaalbaaz*, a trick played once too often.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, main st., Farwan-ya, Tel: 4712900; and Falcon Video, Abbasia.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Licence to Kill
Sahayak
Hall Booked
Al Hamra
Moontrap
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Main Azaad Hoon
Fahad
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Feeds
Granada
Arabic film
Salaikhah
Cold Steel
Jest
Less Than Zero
Ahmad Drive-in
Arabic film

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Al Kawthar Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Mubarak Street
Hawalli and Negra
Al Kamal Pharmacy
Tunis Street
Sahmya and Rumeithiya
Al Nahda Pharmacy
Baghdad Street
Fahad and Almadhi
Burgan Pharmacy
Souk Al Sabah
Khatan
Al Tassamoh Pharmacy
Ayman Sirin Street
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Society

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.16 am
Zohr	11.49
Asr	2.39 pm
Maghreb	4.57
Isha	6.20

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher: news and variety
10.00 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Watadour Al Dawar: Arabic serial (part 10)
11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
12.00 Circus: Variety Programme
12.30 News summary
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Baren: cartoon serial
5.15 Football lessons: sports programme
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Bahr La Yabta Al Shams: Arabic serial (final part)
7.00 Popular Arts: Local programme, prepared and presented by Mohammed Al Mutairi
7.45 Television Network: local programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Manzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (final part)
11.30 Al Harban: Arabic play, starring Sameer

Ghanem, Hanan
Shawqi, Majda
Hamada and Sameer
Sudqi
1.15 News summary
1.20 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Voltron: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay "Up the Coast": Adam Barman is a reluctant anti-doomsday until would-be adventurer Barry Darcus and his daughter, Shastona, turn Adam's trip with Jonah into a rescue mission.
7.00 Beyond 2000: A helicopter for children with a remote control. Treatment for hips dislocation in new born babies... New diving boat... Photocopies in full colours.
8.00 News in English
8.30 The Great World Circus: Acrobatic shows and a variety of exciting circus games from different countries...
9.30 Amazing Animals: Nest Side Story. Nests of birds in urban and rural areas... A look at how birds build their nests by weeds, the reads, mud to protect its chicks.
10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz
12.00 News in brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Lecture
PROFESSOR Oleg Grabar, of Harvard University, USA, will give a public lecture on "The Earliest Representations of Mosques in Islamic Art". The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1990 at 6:00 pm at the Kuwait National Museum lecture

theatre. The lecture, which is in English, is open to all.

Seminar
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiacal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Saz Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth 'musical programme' entitled *Bhude Bire Geet*. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funitees on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Kalpak's drama competition
Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries.

Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481, Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

"Nirjhar"
A CULTURAL function under the auspices of "Nirjhar Sangkritik Goshthi" will be held at Bangladesh embassy premises on 29th December, (Friday).

Mohsin Ali Khan, the political Advisor and Charge d'Affaires of Bangladesh embassy will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis have been requested to kindly procure the invitation card in order to attend the function. For details please contact the Tele. Nos. Mahe Alam - 4315962; Manan - 4317223; Salam - 4330416.

IAC table tennis
THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

New Year treat
ON the occasion of the New Year, the Entertainment City has decided to make entry to the Entertainment City free of charge on Thursday, Dec 28.

Goodbye 1989

SUPER Top Ranks present the most fabulous show of the year: Goodbye 1989. The programme includes glamorous dance performances from Hindi, English, Punjabi and Arabic. Populardance "Ghaza-Neh-Kiya-Ha-Ishara" from Tridev by Valencia Rose Bud Tanaka and Group and the most popular pop band Ajeen, will give performances, especially for the Arab audience. The show will be on December 28 from 4 pm onwards. All are welcome at the Doha Entertainment City's International Theatre. Entry to city is free. For more info: Kalid Fawzi on 4879455. Tenakoon on 4319864 and Valencia Rose Bud 5615291.

Annual Day celebration

MAHARASHTRA Mandal, Kuwait is celebrating its first annual day on 29th Dec '89 Friday, with variety entertainment programme from 1000 to 1500 hrs at the Indian Embassy Hall.

Members and guests are requested to contact Tel. Nos. 5725176 or 2424242 or 3921372 for entry passes.

IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funitees on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Dist" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funitees) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Pongal celebrations

BHARATHI Kalai. Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

Philippine embassy

THE Philippine embassy in Kuwait will remain closed for three (3) consecutive days, from Saturday, 30 December 1989 until Monday, 01 January 1990, on account of Philippine holidays.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.



Illiteracy eradication fair

An illiteracy eradication fair opened at the fair hall of Kuwait's Teachers Society, according to a local daily. It added that the fair which was organised by Kuwait University's Unesco Club in co-operation with the Illiteracy Eradication and Adults Education, Department of Education was held under the patronage of the Secretary-General of National Committee for Unesco, Sulaiman Al Einazi.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Director of Illiteracy Eradication and Adults Education Department, Abdulaziz Al Najdi and Dr Yusuf Abdulomti of the National Committee for Unesco.

The fair contains photographic pictures, charts depicting the development of illiteracy eradication process in Kuwait, booklets and brochures published by the Illiteracy Eradication and the Adults Education Department which highlights the efforts exerted by the State of Kuwait in this field.

The fair will be on until Dec 26th.

Vishal Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6:00 pm at Funitees Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints

THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9:30 am to 12:30 noon and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

Kuwait Welsh Society

A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721583 or 3713467.

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Boys Own Club tie-breaker tournament

BOY'S Own Club are happy to announce that entries are open for the tie-breaker football festival to be held on 29/12/89, at Al Sour Ground.

Teams wishing to enter this football festival can contact Joe D'Souza on 4813622/25 ext. 147.

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Third Formative Arts Fair

The third Formative Arts Fair of the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences was inaugurated yesterday. Of the many who attended the opening ceremony were Fawzia Hussain, the Dean of the Faculty and Khalid Al Oraifan, vice-dean for Students Affairs. The fair was organised by the dean of Students and Trainees at the Public Authority of Applied Education and Training.

The pictures show Fawzia Hussain admiring the works (bottom) and Eman Abdul Azziz in front of one of her pieces of art (top)



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economic growth set to continue into 1990s

PARIS, Dec 26, (Reuters): Economic growth in the industrialised world will continue for an eighth straight year in 1990 at the start of a decade that promises far-reaching if unpredictable changes, the OECD said on Thursday.

The 25-nation "think tank" said in its latest semi-annual outlook that economic reform in Eastern Europe should benefit both East bloc countries and their trading partners in the West.

"The challenge here is daunting, but the potential benefits are far-reaching both for the countries concerned and for the world economy," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said.

David Henderson, head of the organisation's economic statistics unit, said at a news conference to launch the report that OECD trade was unlikely to be affected in the next two years by changes in Eastern Europe.

"But that may change... it's very likely that trade flows will increase," he said, noting that West German exporters would probably be the first to benefit from East bloc reforms.

In a broadly optimistic report, the Paris-based study group stood by its last forecast made in June that there would be no recession next year.

It predicted the average gross national product (GNP) growth in its area would be near three per cent in both 1990 and 1991.

That would be below this year's 3.6 per cent growth but a level where inflation could be contained, it said.

The OECD expected average price rises of 4.5 per cent in the next two years, little changed on this year's 4.3 per cent.

That would still be too much and would require that interest rates were kept high, especially with wage demands becoming a potential inflationary threat, it warned.

Slower growth, new technology and more productive workforces were expected to leave unemployment at this year's rate of 6.6 per cent in both 1990 and 1991.

But given the OECD's tendency since 1987 to underestimate growth, the agency acknowledged that economic activity could be faster than it projected.

Structural economic reforms to open up markets may already be boosting activity more than OECD economists had calculated.

Bank to pay back clients

SANAA, Dec 26, (Reuters): South Yemen's National Bank said today that it would repay clients who owned its shares and bonds before it was nationalised 20 years ago.

"The bank, nationalised in 1969 according to ordinance number 37, will start issuing payments to those who owned shares and bonds in the bank prior to that year," it said in a statement carried on the official Aden News Agency.

"This act was decided in accordance with the full political and economic reforms taking place in the country."

The statement said the bank, which was called the National Bank of South Arabia before its nationalisation, would start issuing the payments on January 2.

Budget approved

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 26, (Reuters): Israel's cabinet approved the Finance Ministry's \$27.2 billion state budget for 1990 on Monday after two days of often bitter debate over proposals to increase defence spending.

Nineteen cabinet ministers voted for the draft budget, four voted against and two abstained, Israel television said.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres said the cabinet made only minor changes to the proposed budget for the year starting on April 1, 1990, and predicted parliament would ratify the plan.

The treasury proposed raising defence spending by \$75 million to meet the costs of a two-year-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Value-added tax will be increased by one per cent to 16 per cent and cigarette and petrol prices will also rise to finance the new expenditure.

Japan urged to take lead in rolling back import barriers

TOKYO, Dec 26, (Reuters): Japan should take the lead in rolling back barriers to imports to help avoid a protectionist backlash by other countries and a repeat of the global stock market crash of October 1987, the OECD said today.

The 24-nation group urged Tokyo to attack Japanese business practices that restrict competition and dismantle obstacles to agricultural imports.

"Japan's place in the world economy today and its dependence on the continuation of a liberal world trading system mean that it should be one of the countries taking the lead when it comes to rolling back barriers," the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said.

The Paris-based group warned that Japan's persistently big trade surplus risks provoking a protectionist backlash in some countries and could end up disrupting world financial markets.

"Given the volatility of financial markets, a further gradual reduction in international (trade) imbalances may be necessary to avoid the repetition of the financial market disruption experienced in 1987," the OECD said in an annual report on Japan's economy.

Although Japan's current account surplus looks set to fall sharply this year, a weak yen could prevent further reductions, it said.

The yen has fallen nearly 15 per cent against the dollar since the end of 1988, boosting the competitiveness of Japan's exports and the price of its imports.

A gradual appreciation of the effective exchange rate would be consistent with the objective of keeping inflation down and continuation of external

(trade) adjustment," the OECD said. The organisation came out squarely against managed trade, saying that fixing targets for higher Japanese imports and a lower surplus was dangerous.

"It contains the seeds of destruction of the liberal world trading system and should therefore be strongly resisted," the group said.

The group urged Japan to improve the standard of living of its citizens to reflect the country's position as one of the world's richest nations.

"(Japan's) high income level appears not to be fully reflected in the quality of life," the OECD said.

Improving the quality of life would not only be good for Japanese individuals, it could also help reduce the trade surplus by boosting domestic demand, the OECD said.

Sheikh Ali to review prospects

Kuwait likely to introduce oil products to Asian markets

KUWAIT, Dec 26, (Agencies): Kuwait's Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa will leave today for a six day visit for Thailand and Indonesia to discuss oil issues.

Sheikh Ali said the purpose of his visit was to study the different prospects of introducing Kuwaiti oil products to Asian markets.

Speaking to a local newspaper, he added that he will also discuss implementation of Kuwaiti projects in the marketing and distribution fields of petrochemicals in East Asian countries.

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) sources told the paper that KPC will begin implementing its projects in the marketing and distribution fields of petrochemicals in East Asian countries.

The sources pointed out that the projects were being formed to introduce the International Diesel Service (IDS) and Kuwaiti lubrication oils to East Asian markets in order to support the company's sales and open new horizons to other markets that have not been approached before by Arab oil corporations.

Kuwait International Petroleum Company (KIPC), owned by KPC, will be responsible for managing these operations since it has become one of the largest oil products distributing companies in the world because of its vast network.



Sheikh Ali

On the other hand, KPC sources informed the paper that Sheikh Ali is to discuss with the Indonesian counterpart the possibilities of co-operation between the two countries in the field of the petrochemical industry.

Kuwait and Thailand agreed in principle last March to establish joint oil projects.

Studies included offshore exploration, aircraft refuelling at Bangkok airport and the introduction of Kuwait's Q-8 brand of oil products into the Thai market.

In another development, two trust funds, one set up by Venezuela and one by Nigeria, have been operating since the 1970s to help the most needy countries in Latin America, the Caribbean

and Africa.

According to "Opec aid and Opec aid institutions" a recent publication of the Opec Fund for International Development, the funds were set up by these countries in addition to their own national programmes and contributions to multilateral aid agencies.

The funds are: The Nigeria Trust Fund, administered by the African Development Bank (ADB) and the two Venezuelan trust funds, managed by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank respectively.

The Nigeria Trust Fund was established in 1976 with an initial capital of \$79.5 million, replenished in 1981 with another 70.5

million. Its objective was to promote the economic development and social progress of relatively less developed and seriously affected ADB member states. Its loans are offered on softer terms than those of the ADB.

The ADB is required to pay particular attention to projects likely to strengthen inter-African economic co-operation and promote regional integration.

At the end of 1988, approved loans totalled \$184.9 million of which 106.63 million had been disbursed. In percentage terms, 34.5 per cent of the cumulative commitments were made to the transportation sector, 21.2 per cent to agriculture, 14.8 per cent to education and health, 14.1 per cent to telecommunications and 6.8 per cent to energy.

The first of the two Venezuelan funds is based in Washington. It was set up in 1975 for a period of 25 years and contributes to the financing of projects and programmes which have a significant impact on the development of the Inter-American Development Bank's (IADB) member states through better utilisation of their natural resources and promotion of their industry and agro-industry.

The fund's resources can also be used to expand the IADB's export financing programme, which emphasises economic integration schemes in the region.

At the end of 1988, cumulative lending commitments had reached \$78.7 million, 442.8 million in the form of lines of credit for export financing.

Firm demand to keep Italian economy buoyant

ROME, Dec 26, (Reuters): Strong domestic demand will keep the Italian economy buoyant over the next two years, although imports will grow faster than exports and unemployment could creep higher, the OECD said on Thursday.

Domestic demand was expected to continue to grow by more than three per cent a year up to the end of 1991, propelled by recent wage rises which will boost consumers' spending power, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said.

The Paris-based 24-nation agency predicted that Italy's gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by 3.2 per cent in 1990 and three per cent in 1991 after 3.3 per cent this year.

The forecast on broad economic performance is in line with the Italian government's own predictions but on some aspects the OECD takes a less optimistic view.

Consumer price inflation is targeted to fall to 4.5 per cent next year and 3.5 per cent in the following years from six per cent this year, according to government estimates.

The OECD predicts a slower improvement in inflation, despite help from declining import prices.

"If the slowdown in price increases observed in the third quarter of 1989 is indicative of the underlying tendencies, consumer price inflation could remain in the region of 5.5 per cent in 1990, despite the scheduled increases in public utility charges, and be brought down to just over five per cent in 1991," it said.

Turning to the budget deficit, estimated at 130 trillion lire (\$100 billion) this year or 10.9 per cent of GDP, the OECD noted that high interest rates, which boosted debt repayments, were partly to blame for the lack of progress in cutting the deficit.

It added that only a slight improvement, to around 10 per cent of GDP, was likely by 1991.

It also predicted the wage acceleration seen this year would be more limited in 1990, and that the slight slowdown in growth over the next two years could push unemployment up to 12.3 per cent of the workforce.

Industrial investment is expected to continue at a high level, spurred by high demand and capacity utilisation, the OECD said.

Tokyo stocks roll to record highs

Dollar edges down

TOKYO, Dec 26, (AP): The Tokyo Stock Exchange's key index closed at yet another record high today, while the US dollar edged down against the Japanese yen for the fourth consecutive trading day.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues gained 257.69 points, or 0.67 per cent, closing at 38,681.31. The previous record closing was 38,586.18, set on Dec 18.

The dollar closed at 142.37 yen, down 0.35 yen from Monday's finish of 142.72 yen. It opened at 142.94 yen and ranged between 142.30 yen and 142.95 yen.

The dollar now has fallen 1.86 yen in the last four trading days. Currency trading was inactive as the New York, London and some other overseas markets were closed for Christmas. An estimated \$4.14 billion traded hands in spot trading.

The dollar fell in Tokyo on profit-taking and small position adjustments, traders said.

Minoru Takeuchi, a trader with Chemical Bank in Tokyo, said, "the yen strengthened despite dollar-buying by some participants who had taken short dollar positions following yesterday's (central bank) discount rate hike."

Overall, she added, "there was little incentive to buy the dollar." "In the long run, the discount rate hike will make the yen stronger," she said. The central bank action's immediate impact on the market had been blunted by expectations it would come soon, Ms Takeuchi said.

"The market had been well prepared for the hike since rumours began last Tuesday," said Toru Kanai, a foreign exchange analyst with new Japan Securities Co.

The Bank of Japan raised the discount rate, the interest rate it charges for loans to commercial banks, to 4.25 per cent from the previous 3.75 per cent. Higher interest rates usually make a country's currency more attractive to investors.

On the stock exchange, the Nikkei, which had lost more than 341 points after last Tuesday's discount rate rumour, climbed more than 640 points in this week's first two days.

While interest-rate increases usually dampen stock investment, dealers said the index rose because many investors felt the bank's action had removed a major cause of uncertainty.

Kazuyuki Suzuki, a dealer with Daiwa Securities Co., said, "the market reacted to the hike positively because of the timing and the amount of the hike, which was exactly what the market had expected."

The index's rise slowed in the afternoon as buying in anticipation of higher prices was offset by selling to take profits, he said.

Trading was moderate, with an estimated 600 million shares changing hands on the first session, up from Monday's 500 million. Among gainers were machinery and electrical issues.

In New York, the stock market was narrowly mixed in light early trading today as bond prices and blue chips declined.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials was off 6.61 to 2,704.78 as of 10:30 am (1530 GMT) after one hour of trading.

Advancing issues were ahead of decliners, with 491 stocks rising, 355 declining and 438 unchanged on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume on the NYSE came to a light 11.4 million shares in the first half-hour of trading following the three-day Christmas holiday weekend.

Hildegard Zagorski, a stock market analyst with Prudential-Bache Securities Inc., said blue chip stocks were following the lead of bond prices, which declined in early trading today.

The US Treasury's 30-year bond was down \$6.25 per \$1,000 face amount, while its yield rose to 7.93 from 7.88 late Friday.

Swiss inflation to peak

ZURICH, Dec 26, (Reuters): Swiss inflation will peak early next year, then decline as the Swiss National Bank's restrictive monetary policy takes hold, the OECD said on Thursday.

In its latest half-yearly report, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development predicted consumer prices would rise 3.5 per cent in 1990 and 3.2 per cent in 1991 from an estimated 3.3 per cent this year.

"Interest rates might be raised further in 1990, but decrease thereafter, as inflation rates and growth of activity decline," the Paris-based organisation said.

It expected gross domestic product growth to slow to 2.4 per cent in 1990 and 2.3 per cent in 1991 from 3.0 per cent in 1989.

Growing wages, higher employment and healthy property income would keep private consumption strong next year, it said.

Fiscal policy would also stimulate the economy in 1990 and beyond as tax relief and budget surpluses at the federal and local level relax pressure to curb spending.

Workers end slowdown

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec 26, (AP): Union workers at a Hyundai Motor Co. plant southeast of Seoul resumed normal work today after a weeklong slowdown to press for higher year-end bonuses, the leading South Korean automaker said.

Union officials said 26,000 union members ended their slowdown at the Ulsan plant amid criticism that the action had been illegal, and union leaders would meet later today to discuss an effective, legal way of pressing for bigger bonuses.

Hyundai officials said workers had slowed the assembly line's conveyor speed and were quitting work early each day.

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for utilisation of the advertisements and promotions rights at the Entertainment City for 39 months as from 15/12/1989. Mr Tareq Zaidan, Director General of the Entertainment City signed the contract on behalf of the Touristic Enterprises Co. while Sheikh Sabah Mohammad Al Sabah, General Manager

of Sabah International Group, signed it on behalf of the Group. Mr Ziad Mohammad Salem, the executive manager of the project and Mrs Huda Al Matar, the TEC lawyer, attended the signing ceremony.

The project provides the utilisation rights for advertisements and promotions at the Entertainment City-Doha to local and international advertisement and promotion companies, through the Sabah International Group. The project includes the right of advertisement and promotion at the car parkings, games, islands, the future world, Arab world, international world, regional garden, the train, city tickets and others through various distinguished means of advertisement and promotion. It also includes the right to utilise advertisement boards,

models, placards, special issues for the Entertainment City, holding special promotional festivals, internal radio, closed TV circuits, sponsoring games and other means. The project will be particularly characterised with special modern means. Sabah International Group will shortly hold a huge reception for all the advertisement and promotion companies and other interested parties, to acquaint them with the various aspects of the project.

BUSINESS

East Europe, Third World debt looks set to rise

WASHINGTON, Dec 26, (AP): Debts of East European and Third World countries are due to rise next year despite the plan of Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady to ease some of the heaviest burdens on debtor countries.

"When you have a vibrant, growing economy — like Indonesia, for example — debt can be a good thing if it doesn't grow too fast," said John M. Underwood of the World Bank.

"It's a sign that foreigners have confidence that it's a good place to put their money."

Indonesia's debt rose from \$43 billion in 1986 to \$52 billion last year, according to figures the bank issued this week. Indonesia had to pay out nearly \$5 billion in principal and interest to its creditors in 1988.

Third World leaders complain that such outflows leave them little to build the schools and buy the equipment to create jobs for their growing populations. The bank calculated the total outflow at more than \$51 billion this year.

Until 1983, new loans to developing countries brought them more money than they had to pay out on the old ones.

Despite the cost, Third World governments still seek more loans, if only to help pay the interest on the old loans.

Underwood is top economist in the international economics department of the World Bank, the largest source of aid to Third World countries. The aid is also in the form of loans, over \$21 billion in the year that ended June 30.

The bank plans to provide as much as \$1.35 billion to Poland, which got nothing last year but already owes more than \$42 billion. Its new non-communist leadership is hoping to borrow an additional \$4 billion or more in the coming year.

Brady's strategy seeks to ease the burden for 39 debtor countries, by combining debt and interest reduction with new loans from banks. So far, plans have been developed for three countries: Mexico, the Philippines and Costa Rica.

The World Bank estimated that his strategy could save as much as \$6 billion a year for 19 "severely indebted middle-income countries" like Argentina and the Philippines, which owe much of their debt to private banks.

He made his proposal last March, before the big changes in Eastern European countries which now have better prospects for getting the new loans they want.

For the poorest countries, governments are the main creditors rather than banks. During the 1980s, 10 creditor governments have forgiven \$2.3 billion owed to them.

KD deposits languish

KUWAIT, Dec 26, (Reuters): The Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates market languished in a market with no real trade being done, dealers said.

Rates were quoted with spot/next around eight 8-1/8 and one to three months around 8-3/16-7/16.

The Central Bank set the dinar at 0.29233:43 to the dollar.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 26, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29208	0.29233
Sterling	0.47448	0.47753
DM	0.17181	0.17290
S. Fr	0.18480	0.18484
F. Fr	0.05022	0.05056
Y. lira	0.0002285	0.0002298
Jap yen	0.0020485	0.0020624
Bah. din	0.77472	0.77600
UAE Dh	0.07952	0.07986
S. rial	0.07786	0.07821
Q. rial	0.08030	0.08059
O. rial	0.75845	0.76193

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/4	8-1/2
3 months	8-1/4	8-1/2
6 months	8-1/8	8-3/8
1 year	8-1/16	8-3/16

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.450
Sri Lankan rupee	7.400
Pakistani rupee	13.790
Bangladesh taka	9.000
US dollar	29315
Pound sterling	47750
UAE dirham	0.7778
Deutsche mark	0.7778
Japanese yen	0.02066

Japanese investors seek overseas markets

This is the second part of the article 'Japan's buoyant economy continues to grow strongly.' The first part appeared in the Arab Times on Tuesday, Dec 26.

The dollar's recent weakness owes to the slowdown of the US manufacturing sector and the widespread belief that this deterioration will lead the Federal Reserve to ease credit conditions. This, combined with the general outlook of stable to firming interest rates overseas has tarnished some of the dollar's previous glory.

However, so long as the US economy does not slide into an outright recession, which does not seem likely at the moment, the dollar is not expected to come out too badly. The Federal Reserve has a strong interest in an excessive depreciation which may re-ignite inflation in the US, currently barely under control.

Yen In spite of a booming economy, low inflation and a move back towards political stability the yen has failed to pick up any of the slack of

the weakening dollar. It remains above the supposed G-7 ranges. The trade-weighted indices confirm that the yen has fallen even more than the dollar. The yen index has fallen by nearly 15 per cent since the peak of last winter.

In addition, the upcoming Japan lower house Diet election, which is likely to occur in February, adds an element of negative uncertainty to the picture surrounding the yen.

However, interest rate explanations may not fully account for the decline of the yen. One ingenious theory attributes the yen's decline to a desired Japanese capital outflow exceeding the country's saving surplus. Because Japanese internal capital markets inflate asset values, while discouraging takeover bids, Japanese investors are increasingly looking abroad. As a result, the US current account deficit can now easily be financed without chasing hot money by means of high interest rate differentials.

However, the deregulation of Japan's financial markets and the threat of the yen's depreciation to US competitiveness decrease the

viability of this situation in the medium term.

D-Mark

The true star currently in the exchange market is the DM. It has consistently risen to well within the ranges of the assumed G-7 accord. The currency benefits from firming W. German interest rates, the market's belief that these rates have further to climb and from E. Europe's political liberalisation, which is seen ultimately strengthening the W. German economy.

Interest rate differentials continue to work in the mark's favour against the dollar and the yen. With dollar and mark-denominated rates about equal, W. Germany's lower inflation makes the mark a higher-yielding currency.

In a recent study by Credit Suisse, it attributes the mark's strength to something more fundamental than interest rate differentials which it names the Economics of German Reintegration. The word reintegration covers at least two different processes. First, there is the migration of East German and ethnic German from further field into the

Federal Republic.

Second, the accelerated growth of E. German economy will occur as a result of injections of W. German capital and management, irrespective of the exact political relationship between the two. Whatever the balance of the two sources, one can safely assume that half of this extra growth might occur in the West.

Demand will rise more than potential supply for the new immigrants will consume more than they earn and extra investment will be required to provide them with industrial and social capital. Because much of the extra demand will be concentrated on housing and land, only limited relief can come from running the balance of payments surplus.

Thus, even if the Bundesbank raises both its estimates of potential real growth and its money supply targets (which it has not, leaving money supply targets virtually unchanged) the Lombard rate will still have to rise from 8 per cent to at least 9 per cent and probably more next year. This expectation is sufficient to encourage major mark buying.

Sterling

Sterling's performance in the past month has confounded forecasters. Despite fundamental economic concerns such as Britain's high inflation rate and record trade deficit, many economists had not expected the pound to decline to its current levels before the middle of next year.

The fact that the UK should have combined a severe tightening of monetary policy during the last year, relative to other countries, with a nasty downward lurch in sterling is a signal of lack of confidence from the international markets. It may well reflect the longer-term inflation prospects and not just the deficit on the external balance.

The Treasury seems to be condoning this depreciation, or at least trying to let the market decide the issue. Although the depreciation may help UK exporters, the problem of their competitiveness lies more in their rising unit labour costs rather than the sterling exchange rate. Moreover, depreciation can only increase inflation through raising import prices.

The prospect would then be of ster-

ling continuing to sag with no end in sight as high expected depreciation, high interest rates and high inflation join together in a self-reinforcing circle.

While US money growth has been edging up, German money supply growth has been edging lower in response to Bundesbank tightening. The year-on-year growth rate of German M3 has fallen to 4.8 per cent from 6.9 per cent at the beginning of the year, and the three month annualised growth rate has fallen to 3.3 per cent, flat in real terms. The relative tightening in German monetary conditions helps to explain the recent strength of the Deutschemark against the US dollar.

Japanese monetary conditions remain lax compared to Germany and the US. Japanese M2 + CD growth remains stubbornly steady at around 9.6 per cent Y/Y. UK Japanese M2 + CD growth remains stubbornly steady at around 9.6 per cent Y/Y. UK money data shows M0 breaking its 1.5 per cent target range again to reach 4.2 per cent, after having dipped to 4.5 per cent in September. M4 lending growth fell back

sharply to 5.0 billion from £10.2 billion in September.

US interest rates have eased slightly. Provisional data show that US real GNP grew at a respectable 2.3 per cent annual rate in the third quarter, real final sales were considerably weaker and the rate of non-farm inventory accumulation accelerated. In addition, the news on US inflation continues to be favourable. Both the implicit price and the fixed weight GNP deflators by-passed the expected 2.9 per cent annual rate in Q3.

Despite the unexpectedly large gain in employment during October and the acceleration in wages, the Fed has apparently eased the Funds rate to around 8.50 per cent. Moreover, it was trading at 8-3/4 per cent on Nov 22. The Fed has shown now that it is much more prepared to move pre-emptively to offset weakness in the real economy.

The weakness in the US monetary aggregates has picked up in response to Fed easing since the summer. While nominal M2 has only risen 4.2 per cent in the last year, the annualised growth rate in the last three months has picked up to 8.3 per cent.

Talks aim to boost private sector role

Arab industry ministers meet

NICOSIA, Dec 26, (Reuters): Industry ministers of Gulf Arab states began talks in Oman today on ways to boost the role of the private sector in their state-dominated economies.

"It is difficult to keep industry in Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states under the government's tent," GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara was quoted by the Omani News Agency as saying.

The meeting of ministers from the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman — follows a GCC summit also in Muscat last week, which urged faster implementation of a 1981 accord on economic integration.

The agency received in

Cyprus, quoted Bishara as saying the ministers would agree a plan for 1990 based on gradual implementation of the accord.

GCC officials say lack of a unified customs agreement among member states makes it hard to agree trade pacts with other economic blocs, notably the European Economic Community which imposes quotas and tariffs on imports of GCC petroleum.

Over 300 GCC industrialists were in Muscat for their third annual conference on the sidelines of the ministers' meeting.

Abdel Rahman Al Jaafari, secretary-general of the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, said the industrialists would discuss prospects for

privatisation of government concerns and the role of governments in promoting the private sector.

Efforts by GCC states to end their heavy reliance on oil and gas by industrialising have been hit by lower oil revenues, leaving less cash for industrial projects, businessmen say. They also point to a lack of co-ordination between member states.

The GCC produces nearly 10 million barrels of oil a day and owns over 40 per cent of the world's proven reserves.

Member states have spent tens of billions of dollars on developing downstream operations, especially petrochemical and refining facilities. Most projects were developed by states acting alone.

Electronics fair sets new records

THE Hong Kong International Electronics Fair '89, which ended last month, generated a total of HK\$801.41 million worth of business, exceeding last year's record figure by 86 per cent.

The four-day fair, held at the new Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, attracted 19,000 buyers, a 25 per cent increase over last year's number. A total of 4,500 visitors were from overseas, while 14,500 were local, representing a jump of 9 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively.

Organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the fair, which is the largest of its kind in the territory, was fully internationalised for the first time this year in exhibition terms. Forty-four overseas and 224 local companies took part.

David Shierberg, president of Stern Electronics, a major importer from Mexico, who has attended the fair for the last three years, described this year's event as a considerable improvement upon previous fairs.

"This year's show was impressive and the product scope was very broad," he said. "We were surprised at the interest Hong Kong manufacturers showed in learning what our market demands in terms of quality and design."

Visitors from the United States, David Shatz, business manager of Wallace International, said he had just visited another electronic fair in the region and found the Hong Kong fair was better organised and the venue impressive.

Being an OEM buyer, he said the exhibition also offered a good opportunity for him to meet other electronics buyers at his Hong Kong suppliers' booth. He said he was satisfied with the number of serious buyers, from Europe, Australia and Japan.

Kouhei Sakakibara, sales manager of TDK Hong Kong Co. Ltd was happy to have customers of related fields visiting his company's booth.

Consumer prices up

Jobless rate down

TOKYO, Dec 26, (UPI): Consumer prices in Tokyo in 1989 posted the highest year-on-year rise since 1986 while the nation-wide unemployment rate remained at a stable 2.2 per cent in November, the government's preliminary figures showed today.

The Management and Co-ordination Agency said Tokyo's consumer prices in 1989 rose 2.7 per cent over the previous year, surpassing a 2.0 per cent year-on-year rise for the first time since 1986.

The agency said the rise was due chiefly to the introduction in April of the 3.0 per cent sales tax, Japan's first such levy.

Food prices increased 2.8 per cent while rents were up 3.2 per cent, clothing up 5.5 per cent, and education expense up 3.1 per cent, the agency said.

The agency said consumer prices in December increased 0.1 per cent over November.

The agency said Tokyo's consumer price index for 1989 stood at 106.1 against the 1985 base of 100.

The nation-wide consumer price index for November stood at 104.5 up 2.3 per cent over a year ago, the agency said.

The agency said Japan's unemployment rate in November stood at 2.2 per cent after seasonal adjustments, down 0.1 point from October.

The rate of unemployment in Japan during last November have reached 2.2 per cent, reflecting a slight decrease from 2.3 per cent a year ago, a government report stated here today.

The report said that in November the number of unemployed was 1.3 million, a decline of 80,000 compared with November of 1988.

The number of workers in the agriculture sector was 3.9 million and that indicates to a 7.1 per cent decrease. In the construction sector there were 5.8 million workers, accounting for 3.9 per cent increase over a year ago.

Sabah International Group for Promotion and Advertisement

gives you a chance to have a job in a unique project.

1. Marketing Manager:

With at least ten years' experience in the fields of marketing, public relations and local companies in addition to previous experience in advertising activities. The successful applicant will be at the head of an advertising team, males and females, shall co-ordinate among the team members in addition to the setting up of sales programmes and schemes.

2. Advertisements Design Manager:

The applicants should have ten years' experience in the design and production field at one of the advertising companies.

3. Executive Manager:

The applicants should have the necessary experience in the field of advertising and relief advertisements at any advertising company.

4. Advertising Representatives, males and females:

The applicants should have the necessary experience in the advertising field.

5. Designers, draftsmen and calligraphers, males and females:

The applicants should have the necessary experience in designing and executing of the advertising at any of the advertising companies.

6. Secretary, male or female

The applicant should have previous experience in typing, filing and computer.

Applicants should apply personally at the Group office situated at

Rameem Commercial Centre, Al Sharq, opposite Al-Sharq Fire Department, Second Floor, Office No. 14.



AI BAAB gets \$75m

Signing ceremony took place at KFTCIC head office yesterday.

Kuwait Foreign Trading Certificate of Deposits (KFTCIC) has lead-managed subscription to \$75 million floating rate certificate of deposits (FRCD) on behalf of AI-BAAB maturing in 1992. In addition to KFTCIC the issue was co-managed by the following banks: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, The Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East, Burgin Bank, The Commercial Bank of Kuwait, The Gulf Bank, The Industrial Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Real Estate Bank and National Bank of Kuwait. It is worth noting that AI-BAAB was established in Bahrain as an offshore banking unit in 1979. The paid-up capital of the bank currently stands at \$100 million with Kuwaiti entities holding around 98.9 per cent of the shares which are the Kuwait Investment Authority, KFTCIC and Kuwait & Middle East Financial Investment Company.

Expansion planned

Colombo port bounces back from strikes

COLOMBO, Dec 26, (Reuters): Colombo port is buzzing with activity again after rebel-inspired strikes paralysed business earlier this year, and Sri Lankan authorities are pressing ahead with ambitious expansion plans.

The port, one of South Asia's busiest and a major transshipment centre for regional trade, was crippled for three months from June as workers responded to a strike call by the leftist People's Liberation Front.

Many foreign ships bypassed Colombo and export shipments vital to Sri Lanka's war-torn economy were delayed. But the strikes petered out by September and port work has returned to normal, said Vas Gunawardene, chairman of the Ports Authority.

Business will be boosted by two new shipping lines plying through Colombo and by Sri Lanka's deregulation of export shipments, said Gunawardene, who recently travelled abroad to assure major clients that the port was back in business.

"There were many apprehensions about the situation here. Shipping companies were worried about the continuity of stability. I was able to allay their fears," he said.

Gunawardene predicted Colombo's cargo handling would fall by 8,000 containers this year from the 1988 figure of 638,000. But he said volume would pick up in 1990.

"Business next year is expected to improve and in the year 2000 we are aiming at 1.4 million containers," he said, adding that a third container berth would be built in Colombo by 1992 to increase capacity.

Tommy Ellawala, chairman of the private Sri Lanka Shippers Council, said the port would have more work after the government's announcement on December 1 that Sri Lankan exporters can use any shipping line.

Exporters previously had been compelled to give preference to the state-owned Ceylon Shipping Corp, a policy criticised by many foreign shipping lines.

Port officials said Colombo, which runs a world service through New Zealand and Australia, began using Colombo last month. They said the Soviet Union's Black Sea Shipping Co would start operating here this month, carrying tea and rubber.

Gunawardene said various port charges were cut by 50 per cent this month to attract more ships.

Some shipping analysts say the port remains vulnerable to rebel strikes and forecasts of rising business may be too optimistic.

Government officials say rebel activity has fallen since the leader of the People's Liberation Front, Rohana Wijeweera, was killed on November 13 in Colombo. But fighting continues.

"For the moment the port is working okay. But if strikes occur once again, Colombo would have a more difficult time retaining its image as an efficient and productive port," said one shipping expert who declined to be identified.

Mahinda Ratnayake, general manager of Ceylon Shipping Lines, said the volume of export cargo was unlikely to increase in the near future.

"More ships could come but they will share the same cake," he noted, adding that export tonnage had remained static in the past few years.

He also said the deregulation of export shipments could put smaller shipping lines out of business by attracting more competition. "These are the dangers of liberalisation the government has to consider," he said.

Tokyo shares		
Nikkei stock average: 30681.31 (+257.69)		
Volume: 600 mil shs		
Yen exchange rate: 142.37		
Name of stock	Price	Change
Advantest Corp	5000	+90
Ajio Electric	2830	+30
Asahi Glass	2040	+20
Asahi Chem Ind	2190	+80
Asahi Glass	1230	-10
Asahi Glass	2380	+70
C. Itoh Co	1180	0
Daicel Chem	1820	+20
Daicel Chem	1520	0
Daicel Chem	2390	+10
Daicel Chem	2890	0
Daicel Chem	2840	+10
Daicel Chem	1740	0
Daicel Chem	2150	+20
Daicel Chem	8100	+210
Daicel Chem	4230	+80
Daicel Chem	1530	+10
Hitachi Credit	2030	+40
Hitachi Koki	2100	+30
Hitachi Ltd	1530	+30
Hitachi Metal	1730	0
Honda Motor	1830	+30
Ito Yokado Co	4690	+180
Kajima Corp	2730	+10
Kawasaki H I	1070	+10
Kobe Cast Iron	1400	+40
Kokusai Elec	3630	+90
Kyocera Ltd	1330	0
Kyocera Ltd	3590	+100
Matsushita Ind	3150	+100
Matsushita Ind	2340	+50
Mitsubishi Corp	1000	0
Mitsubishi Corp	1950	+20
Mitsubishi Estate	2530	-10
Mitsubishi H I	1160	+30

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAH PORT AS ON 26/12/89			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
01	Rashida	KSA	4843150
02	Blue Star	Algh Barwil	4842988
03	Meghali	Sagar	2432692
04	Shaan	ISA	2441860
05	Baylon	KSA	4843150
06	Sci Bird	Sagar	2432692
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAH PORT			
ETA	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
26/12	Barge Uco-F	KMMC	2419814
27/12	Golden Wonder	M. Bahrar	2419814
27/12	Eagle World	T. Cont	2436930
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
01	Al Batros	RSMS	2423642
02	Prabhu Gopal	Algh Barwil	4842988
03	M. Bahrar	KSA	2433981
04	BL Chaitou	RSMS	2423642
05	Anafi	Algh Barwil	4842988
VSL AT ANCHORAGE			
S.No.	Ship Name	Agent	Tel. No.
28/12	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814
29/12	Far Suez	RSMS	242

هناك امتحان

Japan gobbling up art market

Back with a vengeance

TOKYO, (AP): Japanese tycoons and blue-chip corporations have re-entered the international art market with a vengeance, snapping up impressionist and modern paintings. In some cases, experts say, they show little regard for quality or price.

Japanese real estate speculators and bootstrap entrepreneurs like Yasumichi Morishita, who made his fortune with high-interest loans, are neck and neck with big companies in scouring the international art market for the best money can buy.

Along with individuals enriched by the yen's appreciation and ballooning stock and land prices, these new Japanese buyers have become a strong force in many collectors' markets, from antique musical instruments to vintage wines.

Nowhere is this as evident as in the market for impressionist and modern paintings, where Japanese dealers and collectors are snapping up about 40 to 50 per cent of total sales at London-based Christie's and Sotheby's auction houses. The renewed Japanese appetite for Western art became evident in 1987 when Yasuda Marine and Fire Insurance Co. paid \$39.9 million for Vincent van Gogh's "Sunflowers" — at the time the world's most expensive painting.

Western collectors still are able to set art-market benchmarks, such as the \$53.9 million sale of Vincent van Gogh's 1889 "Irises," in 1987 to Australian tycoon Alan Bond — now the world record — and a Picasso self-portrait "Yo Picasso," sold last May for \$47.85 million to Kentucky executive Wendell Cherry.

But in a satellite-linked Tokyo-Paris auction on Nov. 30, a Japanese resort and auto-racing firm called Nippon Autopolis nudged aside Cherry as owner of the world's second most costly painting, with its \$49.8 million knockdown of Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger."

Nippon Autopolis is far from the only Japanese winner of recent art prizes. Shigeki Kameyama, wealthy owner of Mountain Tortoise Gallery in Tokyo, set a new record for a living artist with his \$20.68 million purchase of Dutch artist Willem de Kooning's "Interchange" in November.

The big Japanese buyer in recent months, dealers say, has been Morishita. Fortifying the stock of impressionist and post-impressionist paintings at his gallery, Aska International, he has made his following buys at auctions in New York and London:

- \$7.1 million (\$10 million) for one of Picasso's most important early works, "La Maternité," or "Motherhood" on Nov. 27 in London.
- \$4.4 million (\$6.8 million) for Paul Gauguin's 1889 painting of a Breton boy in a landscape at a Sotheby's auction on Nov. 28.
- \$25 million out of total sales of \$131.29 million from the estate of the late Campbell soup heir John T. Dorrance in October, including \$7.15 million for Van Gogh's "Man at Sea."

Critic Souren Melikian, commenting in the International Herald Tribune on Aska's purchases at a Christie's auction in London in late November, said Morishita's gallery bought some top-quality paintings at reasonable prices but also bought some paintings that no one else would have bought.

Melikian described one small Renoir that Morishita bought for £462,000 (now the equivalent of \$748,440) as "summarily dashed off," and wrote that Morishita paid "an astronomical £2.42 million (now \$3.9 million) for a badly done" Renoir.

The new Japanese corporate buyers "are entirely different players from the owners of small and medium-sized firms who used to just collect privately," said Kazuko Shiomi, president of Sotheby's in Tokyo.

Traditional dealers haven't exactly welcomed gruff, no-nonsense Morishita. Police have investigated his Aichi corporate finance firm several times, and he received a one-year suspended sentence in 1986 for falsifying documents used in stock transactions.

Kiyotaka Kori, Aska's gallery manager and a former secretary to the tycoon, says Morishita wouldn't mind having a better image.

"In some reports, we've got a bad reputation, and Mr. Morishita doesn't like that," Kori said as he relaxed on the Italian silk couch in Aska's gallery, a bright spot of pastels and chrome beside a grimy freeway in central Tokyo.

Morishita, who lives in a brick mansion in one of Tokyo's trendiest neighbourhoods, wasn't available for an interview. "He really doesn't like having his picture taken," said the gallery manager.

Kori said Morishita makes a practice of bidding under the house estimate at auctions, but when he really wants something, "there's no limit. Our purpose is to get the painting."

"We hope that in the future, if you want to see a Monet or Renoir, you will go to Aska International," he said.

Experts say such purchases are underpinning a world-wide surge in the art market, which has continued unabated despite shocks in other financial markets, thus inviting still more investment.

Sotheby's composite art market index, which sets prices at 100 in 1975, had inflated to 911 by late November, up from 732 in fall 1988 and 476 in 1987.

In areas where Japanese buying is strongest — impressionist and post-impressionist, modern (1900-1950) and contemporary paintings — indices have more than doubled in the past two years to 1,525, 1,415 and 1,945 respectively in late November.

Japanese collectors made similar forays into international art markets in the early 1970s, when the first flush of affluence led trading firms, among others, to diversify their investments beyond the tea ceremony bowls they traditionally collected. That first flirtation with art dealing ended abruptly with the 1973-74 oil crisis.

Today, investors like Morishita, who says he has been privately collecting Western and Japanese art for 30 years, see a market they expect to continue strong.

Japan's imports of art, antiques and collectibles quadrupled from \$411.4 million in 1986 to \$1.712 billion in 1988, according to the Finance Ministry.

In the first nine months of this year, imports of paintings alone totalled \$1.55 billion of a total \$1.82 billion for all collectibles, it says.

Ms. Shiomi attributes the seemingly unquenchable Japanese thirst for Western art to a desire for a better "quality of life" after decades of hard work-



Santas everywhere
Hundreds of small Santa Clauses gather on Dec 25 in central Taipei's Chiang Kai-Shek memorial park, Taiwan, where Christians are a minority, had a holiday on Dec 25, but it was to celebrate Constitution Day and not Christmas. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sun, magnetic field and sense of smell lead the birds towards home

Fancy: pigeon racing rage in Britain

CHELTONHAM, England, (AP): From the blue-collar housing projects of Cockney East London to the gardens of the gentry, grown men scan the skies for hours most weekends, waiting for their pigeons to race home.

They rhapsodize about pigeon racing, the sport known as "The Fancy" and now one of Britain's more popular pastimes.

"All you see is a pipprick in the sky," said Maj. Edward Camilleri. "They fly towards you, and you hope it's yours. Then they fold their wings, they drop out of the sky, they literally do. They come straight down like bullets."

Says Bernie Bennett, who has 60 pigeons: "Unless you're a pigeon fancier, you just find it very hard to understand, to see a person out in the garden, like me yesterday, bucketing down with rain, looking for pigeons to come from 100 miles (160 kms)."

"With pigeons I find one thing and one thing only: You're the jury, you're the prosecution, you are the judge. All that happens down in your backyard is down to you."

Camilleri, a retired soldier who runs the Royal Pigeon Racing Association, estimates Britain has more than 200,000 pigeon breeders and racers among its 56 million people.

Nearly 2 million pigeons, many with meticulously documented pedigrees dating back several avian generations, are registered with Camilleri's association alone.

The sport has an honourable history: The ancient Egyptians kept pigeons; Hannibal took them over the Alps; they served in both world wars, carrying messages for the allied intelligence forces in Europe. Thirty-one pigeons were awarded the Dickens medal, the "animal Victoria Cross," in World War II.

In Britain, pigeons were traditionally associated with beer-drinking, cloth-capped men, but it has moved upmarket in recent years, attracting lawyers, actors and titans of industry. At the top end of the scale, Queen Elizabeth II maintains a pigeon loft.

Britain's largest pigeon breeder, Louella Pigeon World, is a high-tech enterprise that paid a world record £77,000 (\$120,120) in 1988 for the racing pigeon Emerald II.

"That, pound for pound, makes it more valuable than the Derby winner," Camilleri said, referring to Britain's most prestigious horse race.

Emerald II is moved from one secret location to another, because with the large sums sometimes at stake in bets and prize money, sabotage and pigeon-napping are not unheard of.

However, high prices don't always guarantee success. Camilleri said, and a good racing pigeon can start as low as £20 (\$32).

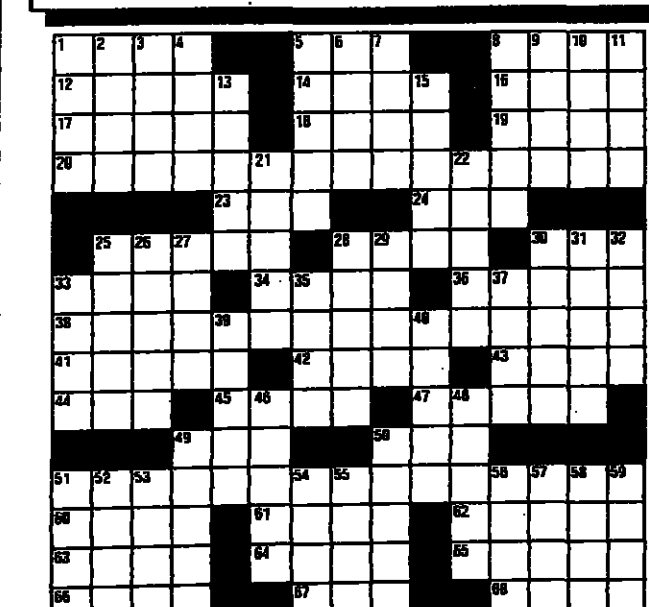
"Stockmanship comes into it, knowing and understanding pigeons," he explained. "They all have their individual characters and what you've got to do is understand their character well enough and encourage them to come home quicker than the next pigeon."

No one knows exactly how pigeons find their way home after being released, sometimes hundreds of miles (kms) away.

"The sun is definitely one (factor) and magnetic field is definitely a second," Camilleri said. Research in Europe indicates the sense of smell also may help.

There's also a very basic urge. Most pigeons in Britain are kept on the "widowhood system." As soon as a hen and cock produce a pair of young, or squabblers, they're separated. Only the males are raced, and the only time they get to see their hens is when they return to the loft at the end of a race.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Oriental nursemaid
 - 2 Diffident
 - 3 Backpack
 - 4 Armstrong on trumpet
 - 5 River of N England
 - 6 Arthurian lady
 - 7 Egret's territory
 - 8 Caspian feeder
 - 9 Hun king
 - 10 Boundary, to the weatherman
 - 11 Pistachio
 - 12 Feed
 - 13 West Pointer
 - 14 Llama land
 - 15 the ramparts
 - 16 Parisian's "Are you there?"
 - 17 Target for Gritzky
 - 18 Bellini opera
 - 19 Depot
 - 20 "The Flowers that bloom in the spring"
 - 21 Without charge
 - 22 Legal wrong
 - 23 Alarming letters
 - 24 Better's destination
 - 25 Black wood
 - 26 Recede
 - 27 Afternoon hour
 - 28 Pen and paper place
 - 29 Molten rock
 - 30 Pastrami purveyor, for short
 - 31 Avid
 - 32 On the summit
 - 33 Facilitate
 - 34 Facilitate
 - 35 Wears out
 - 36 Diminish
 - 37 O'Hara's "Joey"
 - 38 Departed
- DOWN**
- 1 Charity
 - 2 Castle feature
 - 3 Atmosphere
 - 4 "Look here!"
 - 5 Tour de force
 - 6 Consort of Zeus
 - 7 Time period
 - 8 Courage
 - 9 Dividing word
 - 10 Potter's need
 - 11 Use a blue pencil
 - 12 Scintillate
 - 13 More like a fox
 - 14 Income's opposite
 - 15 Animal life
 - 16 Type of cigar
 - 17 Pseudonym
 - 18 Barbie, for one
 - 19 Clerk
 - 20 Otherwise
 - 21 Hunter in the sky
 - 22 University near Atlanta
 - 23 Carry on
 - 24 Part of BA
 - 25 Cloids
 - 26 Palindromic name
 - 27 Browning's Ben Ezra
 - 28 Very small
 - 29 Dwelling
 - 30 Harass
 - 31 Public warehouse
 - 32 Bay window
 - 33 Side dish
 - 34 Bye-bye
 - 35 Bard of —
 - 36 Type of tide
 - 37 Actress
 - 38 Lanchester
 - 39 Shadow
 - 40 Fairy-tale character
 - 41 Shorten sails
 - 42 Formerly, formerly

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

AMISS SCAM BAIT
BANTU MANA ABRI
ETHAN INADITHIER
LEA RETE SHONE
RAISE DESERTS
BEMISE CORER
EVOKE SURMISING
EEN MARIA NON
PSYCHOTIC COTTA
RODEO GOPHER
ALTERED HARTE
LAIGS PERI KIA
INTHEREAR NANAS
ACHE OLLIO TROTH
SEES BARD HAWSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠6 ♥AQJ106 ♦Q652 ♣K85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♥ ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠6 ♥AQJ106 ♦Q652 ♣K85
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♥ ?
1 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AK762 ♥J1062 ♦4 ♣Q98
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK762 ♥J1062 ♦4 ♣Q98
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♥ 2 ♠
Pass ? Pass 4 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AKJ108 ♥A872 ♦Void ♣A752
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♥ 2 ♠
Pass ? Pass 4 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AKJ108 ♥A872 ♦Void ♣A752
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♥ 2 ♠
Pass ? Pass 4 ♠
What action do you take?



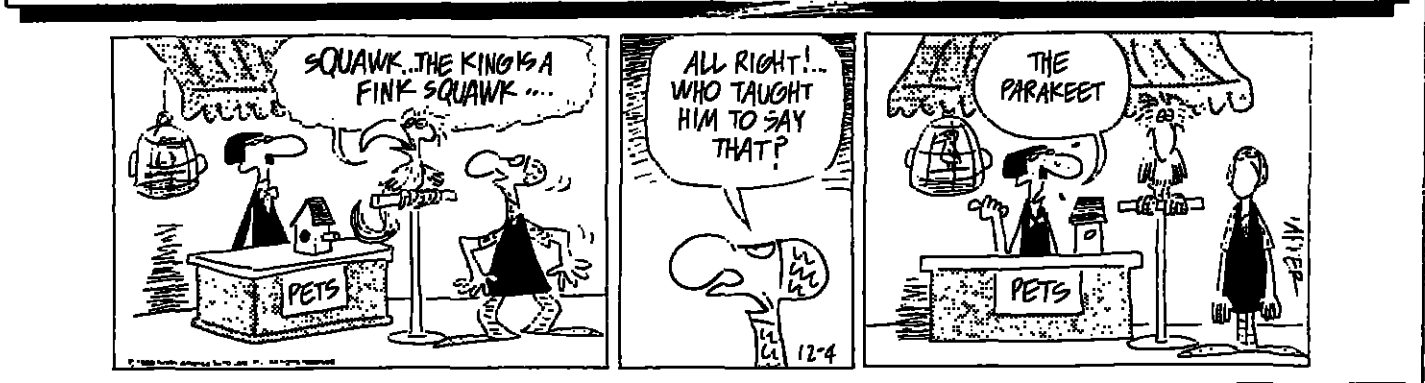
"Don't go in the kitchen."



"I didn't mean THAT sort of trolley!"

"Only another three days and YOU can go back to work!"

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
Nothing wrong with exercising economy, but do not go to the point where it becomes meanness. Try to be just a little more constructive. And avoid attempting to do too much all at once. Be a little more patient.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
Something you have been trying to learn will suddenly seem a lot easier. Make sure you do not do anything you would not do to you. Show just a little more consideration. Be reliable.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You are liable to spend too much time dealing with secondary matters. Make sure your diet does not contain too many sweet things and too few vitamins. Do not rest on your laurels as you are inclined to do. Be considerate.
- Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 19**
You are more likely to make mistakes, so be on the lookout for them. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 37. Better take another look at your finances — you are not as well off as seems to be the case. Do not eat any unusual foods just now.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You are liable to rely far too much on others. Make sure you spend a while each day tidying up. Avoid overworking yourself, but also avoid being lazy or lackadaisical. Be less glib.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
You should not take too much for granted. Nor should you have such a high opinion of yourself. Do not think a problem will be solved just by putting it to one side. Be loving.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
You will be able to do something to please your partner and should do so. Make sure you take a little extra care when on the road. And do not leave any doors or windows unlocked. Be a little more frugal.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
Not everything is as easy as it seems at first. However, you should not overrate the difficulties either. Take a little more care about your appearance. Be sincere.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
You should not take too much for granted. Nor should you have such a high opinion of yourself. Do not think a problem will be solved just by putting it to one side. Be loving.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
You will be able to do something to please your partner and should do so. Make sure you take a little extra care when on the road. And do not leave any doors or windows unlocked. Be a little more frugal.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
You are liable to delude yourself and should do all you can to rectify the situation. And avoid taking too much for granted. Show your partner that you do love him. Be tolerant.

MARKET PLACE

هكذا من الله

SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1989

Top wrestlers compete for prize money

PITTSBURGH, Dec 26, (AP) John Smith, Sergei Beloglavov, Bruce Baumgartner and 19 more of the world's best wrestlers won't be competing this evening for gold medals, plaques or trophies. They'll be wrestling for something much more prized — and something very uncommon — on the world circuit: money.

In the first one-day event of its kind, America's top freestyle wrestlers were to meet a world-class team this evening in a \$65,000 invitational being billed as the World Wrestling Grand Championships. The winner will receive \$4,000 and the loser will get \$1,000 in the first 10 matches.

In the feature match, Smith, a two-time world champion, and Beloglavov, a six-time champion, will wrestle for \$10,000, with the winner getting \$8,000. A \$5,000 bonus will go to the outstanding wrestler. Smith and Beloglavov, considered the premier wrestlers of the 1980s, have never met. Beloglavov is ending a one-year retirement to meet Smith at Pittsburgh's Civic Arena.

Nate Carr, a 1988 Olympic bronze medalist who will wrestle Arsen Fadzaev of the Soviet Union, said the money is important because, "it's like it was with Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. The guy I'm wrestling is tough."

Aussies beat Sri Lankans

Jones reaches new landmark



Dean Jones: passes 3,000 mark

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec 26, (Reuters) An unbroken sixth-century stand in only 67 minutes between Dean Jones and Simon O'Donnell set up Australia's 30-run win over Sri Lanka in the opening match of the World Series Cup triangular one-day cricket tournament today.

The Australians were struggling at 120 for five after being asked to bat first when Jones and Man of the Match O'Donnell came together.

During the course of their stand, which lifted Australia to 228 for five from 48.5 overs, Jones became only the 10th batsman to pass 3,000 runs in one-day internationals. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 198 in the 48th over.

The feature of Jones' 22nd one-day half century for Australia was his running between the wickets. His 85 off 89 balls included four fours and a six. O'Donnell's 57 came off 60 deliveries.

Only Allan Border, with 4,897, has scored more runs in limited overs matches for Australia. Sri Lanka's hopes of a winning start to the tournament, which also involves Pakistan, had been

boosted by a fine spell of bowling by their skipper Arjuna Ranatunga.

He took the wickets of Geoff Marsh, Border and Steve Waugh in the space of 20 deliveries as the Australians stumbled from 88 for two to 120 for five. But then Jones and O'Donnell took centre stage.

Sri Lanka began their reply brightly, openers Roshan Mahanama and Athula Samarasekera putting on 59 in 15 overs.

Ranatunga promoted himself up the order to three to score a spirited 55 but the failure of Aravinda de Silva and Sunath Jayasuriya, both dashing stroke-makers, swung the balance in Australia's favour.

The two sides meet again in Perth on Saturday.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA innings
M. Taylor c and b Ravi Ratnayake 11
G. Marsh c Aravinda de Silva 38
D. Boon c Jayasuriya b Ramesh Ratnayake 11
D. Jones not out 85
A. Border c Samarasekera 85
S. Waugh c Tillekeratne b Ranatunga 5

S. O'Donnell not out 57
Extras (8b 2w 2nb) 10
Total (five wickets, 48.5 overs) 228
Fall: 17, 42, 88, 106, 120.
Bowling: G. Labrooy 9-0-40-0, Ravi Ratnayake 9-1-47-1, (2nb), Ramesh Ratnayake 9-5-43-1 (2w), A. Ranatunga 10-2-41-3, Asoka de Silva 10-0-42-0, A. Gurusinha 1-0-9-0.
Batting time: 197 mins. overs: 48.5.
Rain stopped play at 48.5 overs.
SRI LANKA innings
R. Mahanama c Border b Waugh 38
A. Samarasekera c Hughes b O'Donnell 30
A. Ranatunga c Healy b O'Donnell 55
Aravinda de Silva c Border b P. Taylor 9
S. Jayasuriya c Campbell b Hughes 3
A. Gurusinha c O'Donnell b P. Taylor 22
H. Tillekeratne c Healy b O'Donnell 11
Ravi Ratnayake run out 0
Asoka de Silva not out 13
G. Labrooy b O'Donnell 6
Ramesh Ratnayake c Healy b Hughes 0
Extras (8b 4w 3nb) 13
Total (47.2 overs) 198
Fall of wickets: 59, 85, 101, 108, 161, 169, 190, 197, 198.
Bowling: M. Hughes 9-2-0-41-2 (3w 1nb), G. Campbell 10-2-36-0 (1nb), S. O'Donnell 9-1-36-4 (1nb), S. Waugh 6-0-26-1, P. Taylor 10-1-35-2 (1w), A. Border 3-0-17-0.
Batting time: 207 mins.
Results: Australia won by 30 runs.

201 players eligible for arbitration

NEW YORK, Dec 26, (AP) Christmas has become a traditional dividing point in baseball, just like the Fourth of July. While Independence Day divides the first half of the season from the second half, Dec 25 divides free-agent season from salary arbitration season.

The number of players eligible for salary arbitration this year is 201, including old stars such as Carlton Fisk, Paul Molitor, Jack Morris and Mike Witt and young stars like Bo Jackson, Mark McGwire, Ruben Sierra and Doug Jones.

Most players in arbitration have between three and six years of Major-League service. But because you can become a free agent only once in five years, 23 older players are eligible, too.

The Milwaukee Brewers have 14 players eligible, the most on any team. The Cincinnati Reds have 12 and California, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and San Francisco have 11 each. The Minnesota Twins, New York Yankees and the Atlanta Braves have four each, the fewest among the 26 clubs.

Most players settle before their cases reach a hearing. Last year, there were 176 players eligible on Jan. 1, 136 filed by mid-January and 109 exchanged figures with their clubs on Jan. 19. Only 12 players had hearings, with players winning seven arbitrations and the owners winning five, the first winning season for the players since 1981.

In the 14-year history of arbitration, players have won 125 cases and owners 154.

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Several players will benefit from the big money received by free agents this offseason. Players with at least five years of Major League service may use the money received by six-year players who were free agents for as examples of what their salaries should be.

The players in this group include Eric Davis, Ted Higuera, John Franco, Tom Browning, Denny Jackson, Greg Gagne, Tim Lincecum, Jim Presley, Tom Henke, Tim Lincecum, Jose DeLeon and Vince Coleman.

Vikings clinch division title

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec 26, (AP) The Minnesota Vikings won their division title last night, beating Cincinnati 29-21.

The win, which amounted to a regular-season playoff game between pre-season Super Bowl favorites, eliminated the Bengals, the defending AFC champions, from the playoffs and put Pittsburgh in as the second AFC wild-card.

The result also knocked out Green Bay, which tied Minnesota at 10-6 but was 5-3 in the division compared to 6-2 for Minnesota.

The NFC Central champion Vikings, who finished 8-0 at home, now go on the road to play either San Francisco or the New York Giants in two weeks. The Steelers, in the playoffs for the first time in five years, are at Houston next Sunday in the AFC wild-card game.

Rich Karlis had first half field goals of 31, 37, 22 and 24 yards for the Vikings and Wade Wilson threw for 264 yards in the first two periods alone, but just 39 in the second half as Minnesota



Boomer Esiason scored on his first possessions, took a 22-7 halftime lead, then let the defense take over.

It was almost a fatal error. Boomer Esiason, sacked six times, threw a 65-yard TD pass to Rodney Holman on the third play of the second half, then combined with Craig Taylor on an 18-yarder with 8:49 left in the game that cut it to 22-21. He finished 31 of 54 for 367 yards.

But the Vikings came back with a 67-yard drive aided by 27 yards in penalties against Cincinnati to put the game away on Wilson's 1-yard TD pass to backup tight end Brent Novoselsky with 4:17 left. Novoselsky, who had three receptions all year for 10 yards, made a diving catch in the corner over Leon Barker.

The win gave Minnesota its first division title since 1980 and dropped the Bengals to 8-8 and into last place in the AFC Central, a division that produced three of the AFC's five playoff teams.

The title was forged in a manner that made the Vikings a pre-season favorite. Their League-leading defense got three sacks from Chris Dooleman and intercepted Esiason three times and forced three fumbles.

Standings																			
Standings of National Football League teams after game played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, tied, points for, against)																			
American Conference																			
Eastern Division																			
	W	L	T	PF	PA		W	L	T	PF	PA								
X-Buffalo	9	7	0	409	317		X-New England	9	7	0	379	317							
Miami	8	8	0	331	379		Indianapolis	8	8	0	298	301							
Indianapolis	8	8	0	298	301		New England	9	7	0	379	317							
New England	9	7	0	379	317		N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	253	411							
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	253	411		Central Division												
Central Division																			
X-Cleveland	9	6	1	334	254		Y-Houston	9	7	0	365	412							
Y-Houston	9	7	0	365	412		Y-Pittsburgh	9	7	0	285	326							
Y-Pittsburgh	9	7	0	285	326		Cincinnati	8	8	0	405	285							
Cincinnati	8	8	0	405	285		Western Division												
Western Division																			
X-Denver	11	5	0	362	226		L.A. Raiders	8	8	0	315	297							
L.A. Raiders	8	8	0	315	297		Kansas City	8	7	1	318	286							
Kansas City	8	7	1	318	286		Seattle	7	9	0	241	327							
Seattle	7	9	0	241	327		San Diego	6	10	0	266	290							
San Diego	6	10	0	266	290		National Conference												
National Conference																			
Eastern Division																			
X-N.Y.G.	12	4	0	368	252		Y-Philadelphia	11	5	0	342	274							
Y-Philadelphia	11	5	0	342	274		Washington	10	6	0	388	308							
Washington	10	6	0	388	308		Phoenix	5	11	0	258	377							
Phoenix	5	11	0	258	377		Dallas	1	15	0	204	393							
Dallas	1	15	0	204	393		Central Division												
Central Division																			
X-Minnesota	10	6	0	351	276		Green Bay	10	6	0	362	356							
Green Bay	10	6	0	362	356		Detroit	7	9	0	312	364							
Detroit	7	9	0	312	364		Chicago	6	10	0	358	377							
Chicago	6	10	0	358	377		Tampa Bay	5	11	0	320	419							
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	320	419		Western Division												
Western Division																			
X-San Francisco	14	2	0	442	253		Y-L.A. Rams	11	5	0	426	344							
Y-L.A. Rams	11	5	0	426	344		New Orleans	9	7	0	386	301							
New Orleans	9	7	0	386	301		Atlanta	3	13	0	279	437							
Atlanta	3	13	0	279	437		X-clinched division title												
X-clinched division title																			
Y-clinched wild card berth																			

Former Yankee manager dies in car crash

FENTON, New York, Dec 26, (UPI) Former New York Yankees manager Billy Martin was killed in a car accident Christmas Day on any icy road near his upstate New York home. He was 61.

Mike Doll, a spokesman for Wilson Memorial Hospital, said the accident occurred at 5:45 pm EST. (2245 GMT) yesterday. Martin was a passenger in a light pickup truck driven by a long-time friend, William Reedy, of Detroit. The blue and white truck skidded down an icy road about 300 yards (275 m) into a ditch near Martin's home farm, about 6 miles (10 m) north of Fenton.

"It's been very frigid and some of the back roads are still snow covered," Doll said.

Martin arrived by ambulance at Wilson Memorial Hospital, Johnson City, at 6:33 pm and rescue workers administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation. He was pronounced dead at 6:56 pm.

"We know he suffered severe internal injuries and a possible brain injury," said Doll, adding the cause of death would be determined following an autopsy scheduled for today.

Martin's wife, Jill, was at the hospital when Martin died. Reedy, who family members said had been a friend of Martin's for more than 20 years, was in serious condition with a possible broken hip, broken ribs and cuts and bruises, but was expected to survive.

Doll said there was no evidence alcohol was involved in

the crash and Reedy voluntarily submitted to a blood test.

Martin was hired and fired five times as manager of the Yankees by club owner George Steinbrenner, and the feud between the two assumed soap opera proportions. Through it all, Steinbrenner retained a lasting affection for his combative manager.

"It's like losing part of my own family," Steinbrenner said in a statement from Tampa, Florida. "I was just with him last Wednesday when he came down to entertain 2,000 underprivileged kids in Tampa."

"Billy said this meant so much to him because he never had anything like this when he was a kid. Billy, no matter what anyone said, was going to work very closely with Bucky Dent, current Yankees manager, this year and was so happy to be doing the job he was doing."

Martin was currently on the Yankees payroll as a special adviser and was said to be awaiting a possible sixth term as manager in the event Dent faltered in handling the club next season.

"I worked with Billy and we played together," said Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra, a longtime Yankee teammate. "He was always a winner. I'm going to miss him. You know, his mom just died a week and a half ago and now this has to happen. We were really really good friends."

Martin's bawling, rambunctious style became part of New York sports legend. As manager, his stormy relations extended not only to Steinbrenner but to star



Martin being interviewed after winning a game. (Reuter wirephoto)

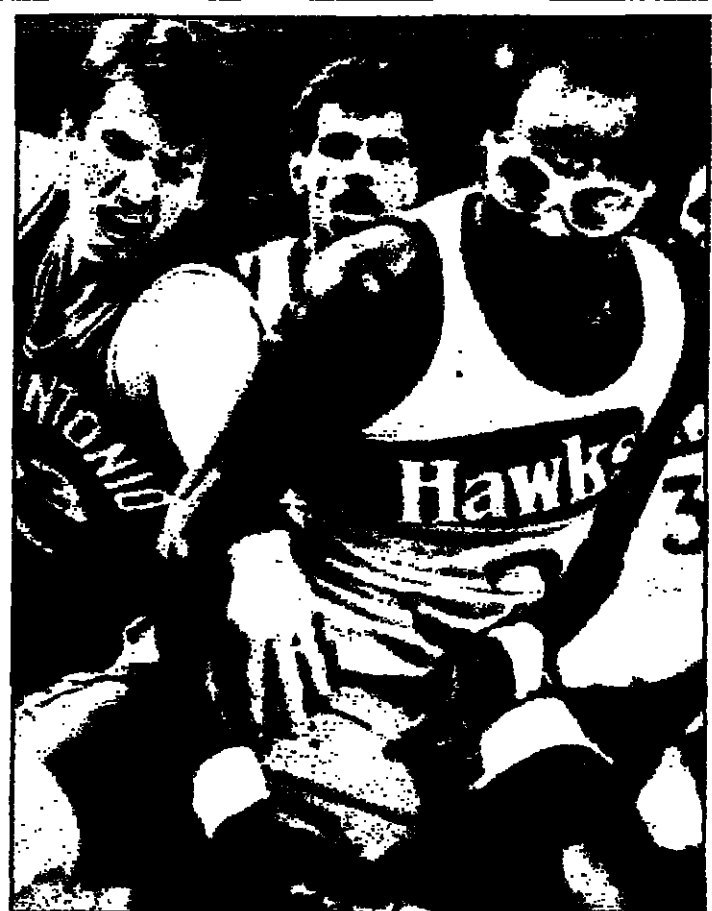
players, umpires and the media. "This makes me sick to my stomach," said Cincinnati manager Lou Piniella, who preceded and succeeded Martin as Yankees manager. "You cannot overthink of Billy as anything else but alive. I am totally upset, totally shocked."

In one outburst that led to a 1978 dismissal, Martin referred to slugger Reggie Jackson as a "born liar" and to the principal owner as "convicted," in reference to Steinbrenner's con-

viction for illegal political campaign contributions.

In the incident leading to his last managerial dismissal on June 23, 1988, Martin was found slumped outside a Texas topless restaurant with his car badly gashed.

Alfred Manuel Martin was born May 16, 1928, in Berkeley, California, and grew up in depression poverty. He went on to play in the Majors from 1950 through 1961 and had a .257 lifetime batting average. A



Malone (right): got 24 points for Hawks

Webb helps Hawks outplay Cavaliers

ATLANTA, Dec 26, (AP) Spud Webb scored a career-high 26 points and also had 12 assists, sparking the Atlanta Hawks to 115-104 Christmas Day victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Webb, who hit 12 of 14 shots, bettered his previous career best of 23 points against the Los Angeles Lakers in 1986.

It was the 10th victory in the last 13 games for the Hawks, who never trailed after Cliff Levingston converted a fast-break layup off a John Battle steal to make it 36-35 with 7:37 left in the second quarter.

The Hawks built their lead to 16 points at halftime, 62-46, and led by 11 or more points until the Cavaliers started a rally late in the third quarter.

Mark Price started a 12-2 run that included five points by Reggie Williams and cut Atlanta's lead to 79-76, but Cleveland was never able to get closer.

The Cavs cut the lead to 100-96 on John Williams' layup with 3:28 to play, but two straight baskets by Dominique Wilkins and another by Webb built the lead to 106-98 and the Cavs never got closer than six points down the stretch.

It was the third loss in a row for the Cavaliers, who got 17 points apiece from John Williams and Reggie Williams.

Moses Malone added 24 points and 13 rebounds and Wilkins 22 points for the Hawks.

WBL outlast Sunair

OSTEND, Belgium, Dec 26, (AP) The World Basketball League (WBL) All Stars won the Sunair Christmas tournament yesterday by edging the host team 91-89 (49-42) after strongly dominating for most of the final.

The WBL All Stars, again paced by top scorer Alfred Hughes, almost let the match slip away in the final 3-and-a-half minutes when they lost most of their 13-point lead because of reckless play and loose passing.

At the same time Sunair produced a slew of three-pointers to give the match its only excitement at the end. With 57 seconds to go the US team kept a slender 2-point edge but Sunair held possession.

The local team, short on efficient tactics against the shorter players — all WBL players are no taller than 6-foot-5 — throughout the match, could not even get a shot on goal in the remaining time.

The WBL All Stars stole the ball with 10 seconds to play and had no trouble holding on for the win in the invitation tournament.

Michigan outclass Hawaii

HONOLULU, Dec 26, (AP) Blake Ezor rushed for an Aloha Bowl record of 179 yards and scored three touchdowns as No. 22 Michigan State took advantage of eight Hawaii turnovers yesterday in a 33-13 victory.

Ezor's rushing total broke the Bowl mark of 139 yards set last year by Steve Broussard of Washington State, and his three touchdowns gave Ezor 19 for the season, breaking the school's single season record of 18 set by Eric Allen in 1971. Ezor was named the Bowl's Most Valuable Player.

The 25th-ranked Rainbows (9-3-1) fumbled seven times, breaking the Aloha Bowl fumble record of five set by North Carolina in 1986. Hawaii committed turnovers on all of its first six drives of the game.

Defensive end Mark Vanderbeek recovered three fumbles for Michigan State (8-4). Linebacker Carlos Jenkins recovered a fumble, intercepted a pass and blocked an extra-point kick for the Spartans.

Hawaii's defense rallied in the second half, but the Rainbows were unable to recover from a 19-0 half-time deficit.

For the second straight year, the Christmas Day game was marred by a bench-clearing brawl. It came with 8:06 left in the game when Hawaii attempted an on-side kick which failed. Coaches and officials struggled for more than a minute to restore order.

Ricky Proehl of Wake Forest caught a 48-yard touchdown pass and set up another score with a 65-yard reception as the Gray rallied from a 10-0 deficit to defeat the Blue 28-10 yesterday in the Blue-Gray All-Star football classic.

Jesse Anderson, a tight end from Mississippi State who caught nine passes for 93 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown toss in the third quarter, was named the Gray's Most Valuable Player.

Gray quarterback Neil O'Donnell of Maryland, who threw for 167 yards in an 11-of-20 performance, set up Anderson's touchdown with the 65-yard pass to Proehl, who got loose down the right sideline and sprinted to the Blue 15.

Proehl sealed the victory with a juggling reception as he fell into the end zone with 2:51 remaining in the game. Vanderbilt quarterback John Gromos, who threw the pass, completed 13 of 19 passes for 163 yards and also ran for touchdown.

The Gray now lead the series 27-23, with one tie.

Rush and Molby put Liverpool on top

LONDON, Dec 26. (Reuters): Liverpool, making their customary holiday period charge, beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 and went to the top of the English soccer First Division today.

Welsh striker Ian Rush netted the winner from a free kick by substitute Steve Staunton six minutes from time for his 12th goal of the season and 10th in the league.

Arsenal, who kicked off at Southampton two hours earlier, crashed to a 1-0 defeat, allowing Liverpool to go two points clear on 38 points.

Danish international Ian Molby put home team Liverpool ahead after two minutes but Dalian Atkinson equalised five minutes after the break with his 10th goal of the season.

Liverpool were sixth going into the Christmas holiday period last season. They were narrowly beaten for the title by Arsenal in May.

But Liverpool were lucky to win today as Sheffield Wednesday, a much improved side despite still languishing near the bottom of the table, played well enough to deserve at least a share of the points.

Rodney Wallace struck eight minutes from time for Southampton when Matthew Le Tissier headed down veteran midfielder Jimmy Case's free kick.

The win kept Southampton in sixth place with 30 points, six less than Arsenal.

Ailing giants Manchester United crashed to their fourth defeat in five matches when they lost 3-0 at Aston Villa.

Ian Olney, David Platt and Kevin Gage scored between the 56th and 78th minutes as United crumbled after a 0-0 draw with Liverpool on Saturday which had improved their morale following three defeats in a row.

The skill and pace of villa winger Tony Daley posed most of the problems for a United side deprived of captain and midfield inspiration Bryan Robson who injured a hamstring on Saturday.

England striker David Platt's 63rd-minute goal from a Daley cross was his 15th of the season and 12th in the League for Villa, who secured third place in the table on 34 points.

England striker Gary Lineker's 12th goal of the season helped Tottenham Hotspur to a 3-1 win at home to Millwall and kept Spurs in touch with the leaders on 31 points.

Lineker scored his third goal in the 35th minute. He was initially credited with Spurs second goal but it was later ruled an own goal by Alan McLeary.

Vinny Samways opened for Spurs in the ninth minute while Republic of Ireland striker Tony Casciaro scored a consolation goal for Millwall in the 72nd minute.

Aston Villa	3	Manchester U	0
Crystal P	2	Sheff Wed	1
Derby	0	Everton	2
Liverpool	2	Sheff Wed	1
Luton	2	Not Forest	1
Manchester C	1	Norwich	0
QPR	1	Coventry	1
Southampton	1	Arsenal	1
Tottenham	3	Millwall	1
Wimbledon	3	Charlton	1

English Division Two			
Barnsley	0	Watford	1
Bradford	0	Widnes	2
Brighton	0	Preston	1
Ipwich	2	West Ham	0
Leicester	2	Bournemouth	0
Oldham	2	Port Vale	1
Plymouth	2	West Bromwich	2
Sheff Wed	2	Leeds	1
Stoke	2	Newcastle	1
Sunderland	2	Oxford	1
Swindon	4	Blackburn	2
Wolves	1	Hull	2

Scottish Premier Division			
Aberdeen	1	Hibernian	2
Dunfermline	1	Dundee	0
Hearts	1	Celtic	0

English Division Three			
Bolton	2	Blackpool	0
Bristol R	0	Birmingham	0
Chelster	0	Wigan	0
Fulham	0	Bristol City	1
Huddersfield	2	Bury	1
Leyton O	1	Northampton	1
Mansfield	2	Rotherham	0
North County	2	Shrewsbury	0
Preston	2	Tranmere	0
Reading	1	Brentford	1
Swansea	0	Cardiff	1
Walsall	1	Crewe	1

English Division Four			
Aldershot	0	Exeter	1
Barnet	2	Carlisle	1
Doncaster	2	Wrexham	2
Gillingham	1	Maidstone	2
Hartlepool	4	Scarborough	1
Lincoln	4	Cambridge	1
Peterborough	2	Chesham	1
Scunthorpe	2	Grimsby	2
Southend	2	Colchester	2
Stockport	0	Rochdale	1
Tonnyay	0	Hendon	1
York	0	Halifax	1

Scottish Division One			
Airdrie	1	Clyde	0
Ayr	2	Albion	0
Falkirk	4	Forfar	0
Partick	3	Clydebank	0
St Johnstone	1	Alloa	0

Scottish Division Two			
Arbroath	1	Stirling	2
Brechin	3	Kilmarnock	1
Cowdenbeath	1	East Fife	1
East Fife	1	Stirling	1
Queen of S	0	Dumbarton	0
Queen's Park	0	Stenhousemuir	0
Sirrastra	1	Montrose	2

BRIDGE

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge Tournament (13th week) played at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Monday:

1. Rita & Bianca
2. Ahmed Hneidi & Sabri
3. El Baz & Sultan Ali
- E. W.
1. Mukerjee & Shah
2. Dona & Simon
3. Ikramul Haque & Nissar

Strong Kuwait entry for powerboat race

By Gail Seery

At least twelve boats from Kuwait are likely to participate in Friday's Dubai Offshore Powerboat Race, the third round of this year's racing season, which is expected to be one of the biggest and best races in the region to date.

Kuwait entrants include Mishal Al Jarallah in his Kouras-sponsored boat, Khalifa Al Qatami, the Ansari brothers and the Give Way team, Thabit Al Bani, Hossam Al Sayafa, sponsored by Merit, and Khaled Al Khaled, all of whom have gained experience of international level.

However, it will be a tough race for those racing in Group A, as this classification is now dominated by the inboard boats, which are significantly more powerful than those from Kuwait. Mishal Al Jarallah, and Ahmed Al Ansari both race with a trio of Mercury 2.4s powering their boats, but even with a power output of approximately 735hp, they are likely to be out run by the inboard boats, each of which represents a colossal financial investment.

In October this year the Dubai Marine Club decided to adopt UIM classifications. The Union International de Motonautique is the official body which governs the sport on a world-wide basis, and under their regulations, inboard boats with a certain engine capacity can compete alongside outboards.

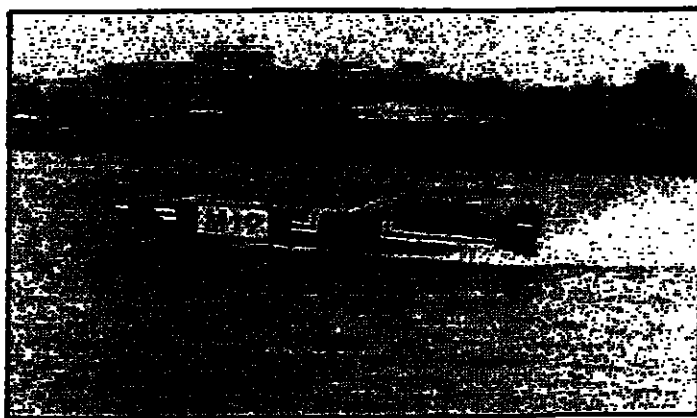
In the early days of the sport in the Gulf, great emphasis was laid on the need to avoid potting inboards against outboards because it was felt that the inboard boats would always win, and that they would quickly push the sport beyond the limit affordable by its growing band of enthusiasts.

Victory 7 was the first inboard boat to race in Dubai, and with at least 626 hp in each of its two engines, it has dominated the field, which till now has consisted entirely of outboard boats. The boat, a 32 foot Skater catamaran, is usually crewed by Hamad Buhalliba and Randy Season who invariably open out a huge lead, and then take it easy for the rest of the race, putting on a little speed when there are spectators about.

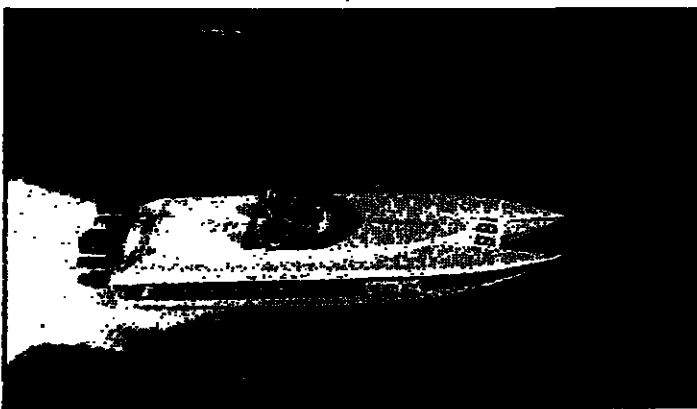
Tracking the boat by helicopter in Jordan, we estimated that it was cruising at 120 nautical miles per hour — significantly faster than the top speeds being clocked by the other boats.

This race will see a little more competition, as other wealthy patrons have entered inboards, and it will be interesting to see how Victory 7 fares when offered a fight for first place. Although the outboard boats cannot really hope to catch any of the five inboards which are rumoured to be taking part, they can aim to be placed as high as possible, immediately after the inboards, and if any one of them has a problem, or makes an error, then a shrewd outboard entrant may benefit.

Inboard racing in the Gulf has been a very relaxed affair until now, but Friday's race will see a



Mishal Al Jarallah practices for the race.



One of the Victory Team boats in action.

great deal of money invested in coming first, and we can be sure that each of the inboard boats will be pushing, particularly in the early stages of the race, when they will be trying to size up the opposition.

Group B is also being dominated by the Victory team, but there is considerable competition in this group, which covers boats with an engine capacity of less than 6 litres, and Victory 166's results are a credit to the team's undoubted professionalism. Victory 166 has won each of the races it has entered this season, including the speed trial type race, which was held over a measured mile on the Creek.

Exact race details have not yet been released, but it is expected to take place over a four lap course, with a total distance of 84 nautical miles. In moderate sea conditions the boats could well complete this distance in less than an hour.

However conditions are frequently rough in Dubai at this time of year, and last year's event was postponed several times before it finally took place in mid-January.

The organiser of the race, Major Saeed Harab of the Dubai Marine Club said, "if the sea is rough, then we must postpone it, and reschedule it for the first available date." The rule book issued by the club specifies that the race will be postponed in such unsuitable conditions as "sea storms, rain, storm and winds, or mist," and as a wood boat race was delayed recently for these reasons, the Kuwait entrants may have a longer stay in Dubai than they anticipate.

Several newcomers have joined the established Kuwait racers.

Asia Cup: Semifinals results of the Asia Cup men's hockey championship yesterday in New Delhi. India beat Japan 3-0 (halftime 3-0). Scores: Balwinder Singh (13th min), Faraz Singh (27th), Thabir Singh (28th). Pakistan beat South Korea 4-4 after the breaker (halftime 0-2, full time 2-2, extra time 3-3). Scores: Pakistan — Khalid Bashir (33rd), Qazi Mohib (48th and 78th), South Korea — Park Shin-Heum (24th), Hwang Seon-Jong (35th), Yoo Jung-Hwan (80th). Tie-breaker — Pakistan: Qamar Ibrahim, Anjum Saeed, Tahir Zaman, Farhat Khan, Qazi Mohib. South Korea: Yoo Jung-Hwan.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Basketball tourney: Jugoplastika of Yugoslavia won the 25th Christmas basketball tournament here despite losing 82-83 to host team Real Madrid in the last and final round of games Monday.

Yacht race: Drumbeat, owned by convicted businessman Alan Bond, marched out of Sydney harbour at the head of the 1989 Sydney to Hobart yacht race yesterday.

Ris dies: Two-time Olympic champion swimmer Walter Ris died of an apparent heart attack at his home, the Orange County coroner's office said.

Givone wins: Top-seeded Rob Givone, winner of the doubles title two years ago at the age of 14, breezed past Michael Wasserman of Belgium 6-2, 6-3 Monday in the opening round of the boys' 16 division in the 13th annual Fort

Washington International Junior Championships.

Egyptian player: One of the Egyptian national soccer team's top scorers was ruled out of next year's World Cup tournament yesterday after his left thighbone was smashed in a car accident.

Hopman Cup: Italian Laura Golaras beat Marie Lindstrom 6-1, 6-1 today to give her country a 2-1 win over Sweden in opening-round play at the \$250,000 (US) Hopman Cup tennis tournament at the Superdome.

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